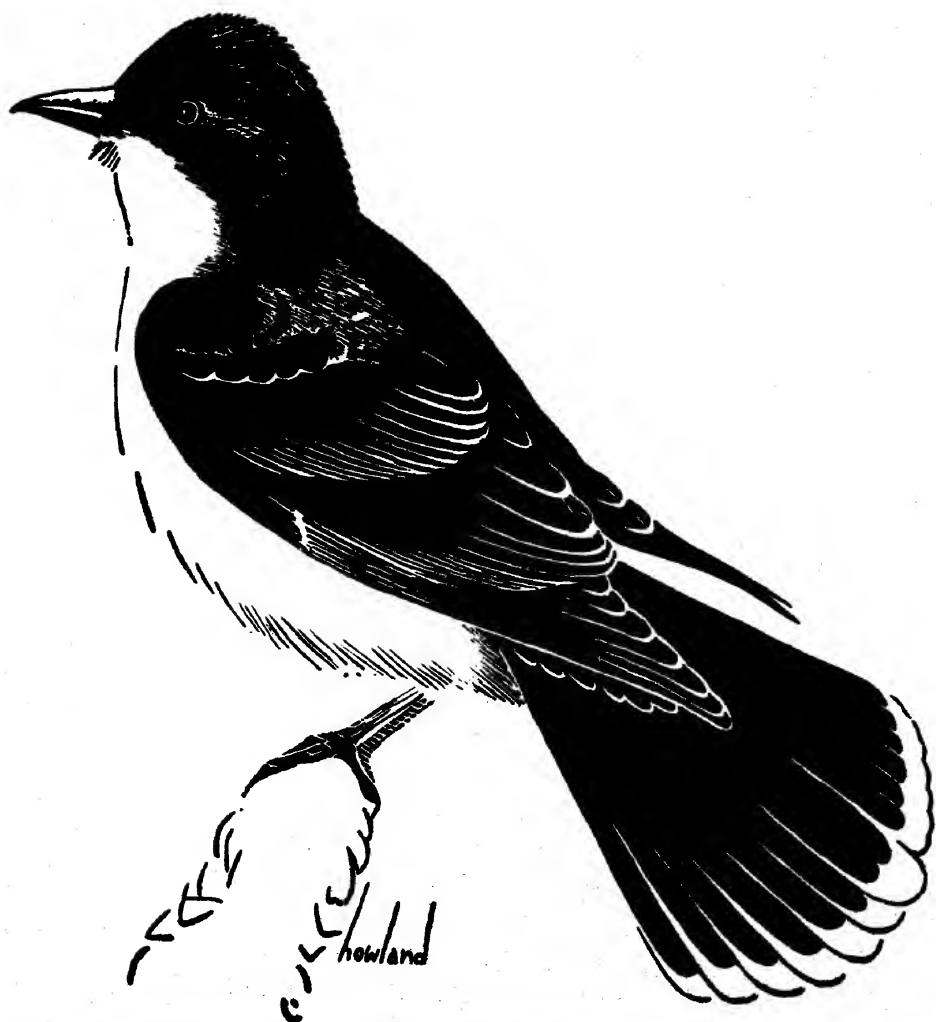


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Figure 1. Ash-throated Flycatcher at Jones Beach West End, Nassau Co., New York, 2-7 November 1994. Photograph by Tom Vezo.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES 60: ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER

JOAN QUINLAN

On 2 November 1993, at approximately 12 noon, while concluding a morning of birding the barrier beaches, John Fritz and I made a final sweep through West End Field 2 in Jones Beach State Park, Nassau County. At the northern edge of the parking field we discovered an Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) perched on a stalk of dried vegetation.

At first glance it appeared to be a Great Crested Flycatcher (*M. crinitus*). After carefully observing the bird to confirm its various field marks, we realized we had a rarity. Its head was brown, showing a gray ear patch. Its back also was brown with a rusty brown rump. The throat and breast were grayish white. The pale yellow on the belly extended into the undertail coverts. Its primaries were rufous with two distinct wingbars. Its outer tail feathers were darkly edged, and the undertail was all rusty. The bill was black, showing pink at the base.

Unfortunately, all other birders had left the area so we raced east on Ocean Parkway to Fire Island knowing that Tony Lauro was manning the hawk watch and excitedly told him of our find. He was able to accompany us back to West End to view this vagrant bird for himself. The Ash-throated Flycatcher remained in Field 2 for five days, seeming to prefer the Autumn Olive bushes surrounding the pavilion and north edge of the parking lot. It fed continually, snatching insects in the air or off the ground. It was easily approached and appeared undisturbed by close movement of the many observers.

According to Bull (1974), this western flycatcher breeds from Washington and Idaho to northern Mexico, east to the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, and is found in winter from southern Arizona and southern California to El Salvador. It is a rare vagrant east to the Atlantic coast from New Brunswick to Florida. Bull lists only two New York State records: at Larchmont, Westchester County, on 21 November 1970 and at Ridge, Suffolk County, on 1 December 1973 (Raynor and Rusica 1974). A third report is a sight record by P. Buckley at Riis Park on 10 May 1978 (Spencer 1978). A fourth record is verified by a photograph taken by R. Villani, also at Jones Beach West End on 21 November 1984 (DiCostanzo 1985).

P.O. Box 655, Central Islip, New York 11722

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THE FALL FLIGHT OF COMMON LOONS OVER CAYUGA LAKE

BILL EVANS, BOB MEADE, TOM NIX, AND STEVE KELLING

To many the call of the Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) characterizes the meaning of wilderness and what is wild. The loon breeds and nests in myriad unadulterated northern lakes and ponds. Unfortunately the Common Loon population in North America is declining (St. John, 1993). The reasons for this decline are many. Habitat destruction has decreased the number of potential breeding sites. Their position high in the food chain makes them susceptible to a variety of toxins. Finally, oil spills on their wintering waters, and human recreational activity are causing Common Loon populations to decrease. Although the Common Loon prefers to nest on remote freshwater ponds and lakes, in winter it is a seabird of the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico (Haney 1990, Root 1988). Breeding and winter counts are difficult due to the sheer area that must be covered. Thus, locating migration flyways and establishing long term migration counts are important means to monitor Common Loon populations. For example, the migration count data from Whitefish Point Bird Observatory in Northern Michigan has detected Common Loon population declines between 1970 and 1992 (WPBO, Annual Reports).

Wells (1991) reported that several large flights of Common Loons passed south above Cayuga Lake near Ithaca, New York. In 1992, Evans initiated a fall count of migrating Common Loons at Cayuga Lake. This first season of the loon count totaled almost 5000 Common Loons. A more thorough and coordinated effort was begun in 1993. In this paper we report results of the 1992 and 1993 Fall migration of Common Loons over Cayuga Lake, describe characteristics of this loon flight, and present preliminary evidence for a major Common Loon flyway.

METHODS

The Common Loon census was conducted at Taughannock State Park, located on the west side of Cayuga Lake, 10 miles north of Ithaca, New York (42° N, 76° W; Fig. 1). The watch location was at a fishing pier on the south side of Taughannock Creek, where the creek enters Cayuga Lake. This vantage point provided clear visibility of both the east and west shores, as well an excellent view of the lake. In the fall of 1992, census takers observed the flight on 16 mornings between 25 October and 18 November. During the fall of 1993, observers were at the loon watch for 42 mornings between 10 October and 29 November.

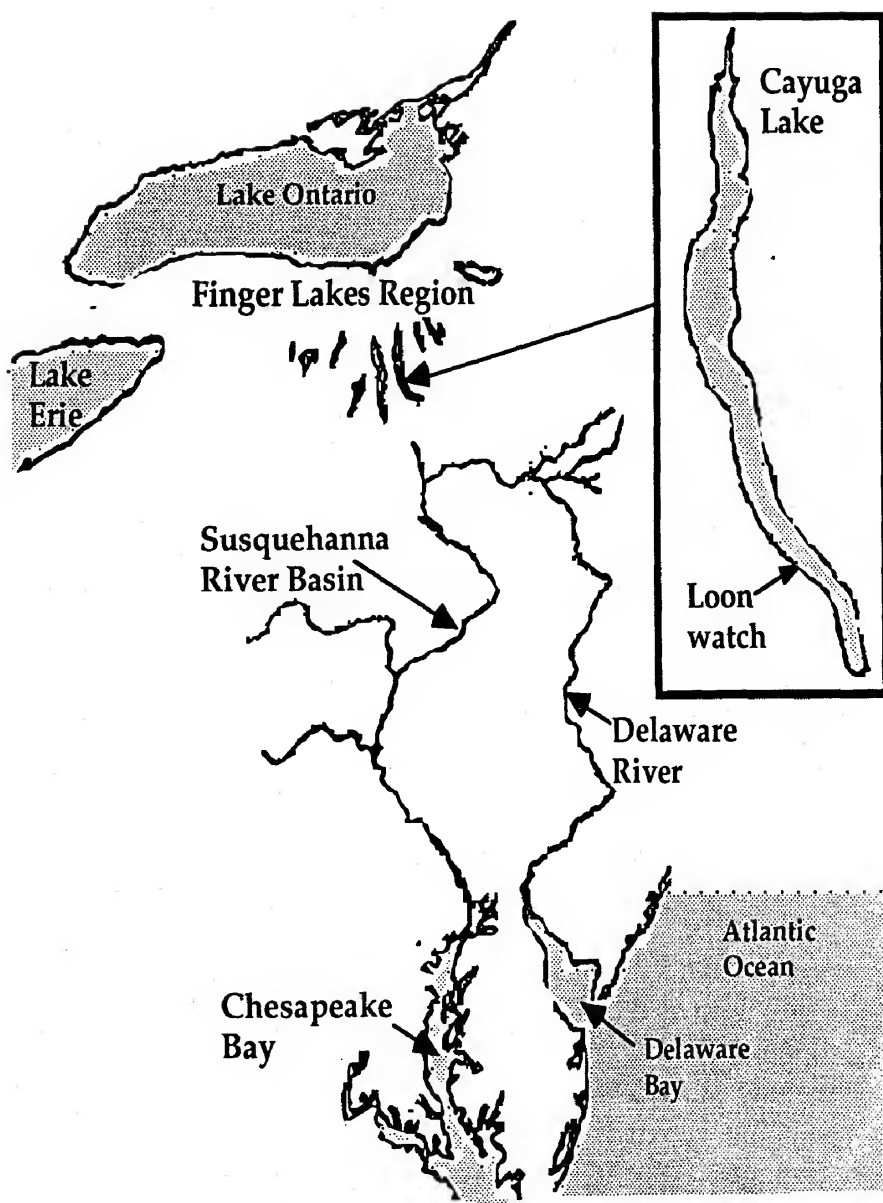


Figure 1. Location of Cayuga Lake loon watch relative to the primary water regions of central New York, eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey and the northern portion of the Delmarva peninsula.

During the 1993 census, flying loons were totaled over 15 minute periods. The first period began 15 minutes prior to sunrise. The number of periods sampled was dependent upon weather conditions and the number of loons observed. Weather conditions, such as wind direction and speed, temperature, and cloud cover were recorded. Also noted was the number of loons flying individually and in flocks. A flock was defined as 5 or more loons flying in a group.

The loon flight over the watch extended from horizon to horizon, and could occur following several flight vectors simultaneously. To cover this expanse, observers looked for loons flying in different regions of the sky. Spotters counted loons flying low along the lake while others would count loons flying directly overhead or over the west or east shores. To eliminate double counting, another individual observed flights in all regions, and coordinated the report of loons announced to the count recorder. This procedure was necessary due to the sheer numbers of loons that could be seen flying over the watch at any given time. For example, during the peak of the migration as many as 400 loons flew over the watch during a 15 minute period.

Loons also were observed flying north. These north flying birds were noted and tabulated. The 1993 count total for the number of migrating loons was the value obtained when loons flying north were subtracted from those flying south.

RESULTS

In 1992, a total of 4942 Common Loon was counted, while in 1993, 8374 loons were counted. The increase in the loon count was likely due to increased coverage during the 1993 fall migration period. Figure 2 shows the daily totals for both years. During the 2 years of observation, the major period of the Common Loon migration over Cayuga Lake was between 30 October and 7 November. This 9 day period accounted for 66% of the total number of migrating loons.

Loons were first observed flying at daybreak, and the flight usually ended about 2 hours later. On all days in which there were high counts of migrating loons, northerly winds prevailed. Loons flew south during calm days or days with southerly winds, but accounted for less than 13% of the total migratory flight.

On most days the loon flight could be characterized as having 2 pulses (Fig. 3). The first pulse typically began at daybreak, and was characterized by birds flying over the lake at an altitude that ranged from just above water level to approximately 200 feet. This flight normally lasted around 45 minutes, and was usually followed by a lull, lasting between 15 and 30 minutes. During the second pulse, twice as many birds were usually observed, and these birds were migrating at higher altitudes (between 200 and 2000 ft). The second pulse lasted approximately 1 hour.

Loons were often observed flying in flocks. Both the number of flocks observed and the size of the flock were greater during the second pulse. During the first pulse, flocks were observed 57 times, and the average flock size was 9 birds, while in the second pulse, there were 330 flocks tallied with an average flock size of 16 birds.

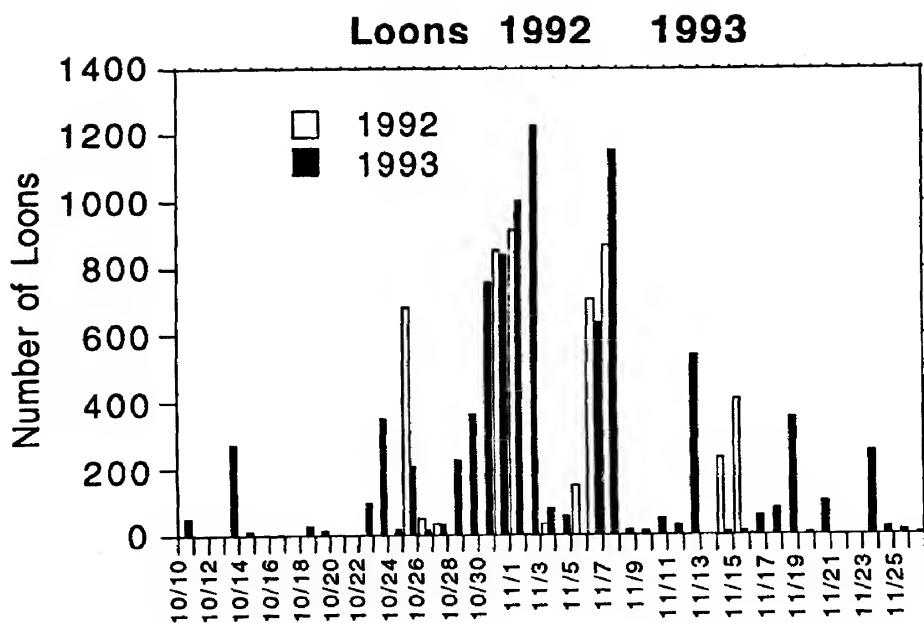


Figure 2. Daily counts of migrating Common Loon during the fall migration, 1992 and 1993.

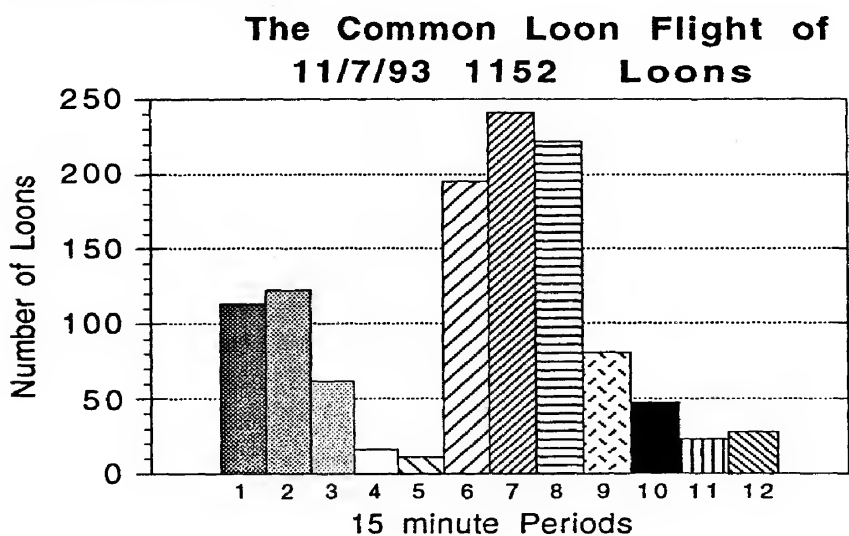


Figure 3. Number of Common Loon counted during 15 minute intervals beginning 15 minutes before sunrise on 7 November 1993.

DISCUSSION

The total of 8374 Common Loons counted in the 1993 fall migration during the loon watch is the highest fall count yet to be documented in North America. There is evidence that large loon flights are also occurring over other regions of the Finger Lakes (Melin, 1991). This indicates that the Finger Lakes region of central New York may be a major loon migratory flyway.

The pulsed nature of a daily loon flight may be attributed to different locations from which the loons begin. Based on their low flight altitude directly over the lake, we conclude that the loons of the first pulse left from sites on Cayuga Lake north of the watch. In contrast, the high altitude flight, and time of arrival suggest that the loons which composed the second pulse left from Lake Ontario. Large numbers of loons have been reported during the fall from Lake Ontario (Bull, 1974). The lull between the 2 pulses may be explained by the distance between Cayuga Lake and Lake Ontario.

Since so many loons pass over the Finger Lakes Region of New York during their fall migratory flight, the question arises as to where they are headed. We suggest that loons leave from Lake Ontario, fly through the Finger Lakes region, and continue south passing over the Susquehanna River Basin to the Chesapeake Bay. Evidence for this flyway is based on high numbers of loons on Lake Ontario, our findings, reports from hawk watch stations located in central Pennsylvania, and on loon counts reported from the Chesapeake Bay. A count of 109 loons was made on 7 November 1992 at Timmons Mountain Hawk Watch near Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, when 866 loons were tallied at Taughannock Park. A Common Loon census done on the Chesapeake Bay between 1988-1990 by Paul Spitzer found that loons were most numerous in the Chesapeake from late October to late November and in numbers comparable to those that we counted flying over Cayuga Lake. This evidence indicates that a further coordinated efforts between the Cayuga Lake watch, and other watches both north and south, as well as throughout the Finger Lakes, should be made.

In conclusion, we have found evidence that a major Common Loon Fall migratory flyway passes over Cayuga Lake in the Finger Lakes Region of central New York. Continued monitoring of this flyway should provide information concerning population trends for a segment of the eastern North American Common Loon population.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We appreciate the assistance provided by the following: Adam Byrne, Ned Brinkley, and Bernard Guirey for their part in establishing this count, Don Henise for the loon count data obtained in Pennsylvania, Paul Spitzer for the detailed reports from his work on loons in the Chesapeake Bay Region, and critical comments made by Gerald Rising, and Susan Pearce-Kelling.

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CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS TO BIRD CONSERVATION IN NEW YORK STATE: THE PAST FIFTEEN YEARS

CHARLES R. SMITH

With the initiation of its breeding bird atlas project in 1979, the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs began a long-term program to determine comprehensively the distributions and population status of the breeding birds of New York State. An important premise underlying the effort is that information about geographic distributions and population status (trend and/or relative abundance) of birds during the breeding season is absolutely essential in making decisions and setting management priorities to achieve conservation of birds (Smith 1991b). In addition, information required to understand better the conservation needs of birds must be based in science, not supposition (Smith *et al.* 1993). *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State* (Andrle and Carroll 1988) provides the geographic distribution component of the program. In 1985, in cooperation with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), we also began to summarize and evaluate information about population status of breeding birds, gained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Breeding Bird Survey, to complement the distributional information provided by our breeding bird atlas (Smith 1989a).

The techniques we have found successful at the state level also are being applied at the local scale to assist the U.S. Forest Service with its monitoring and inventorying responsibilities on the Finger Lakes National Forest (Smith 1991a). Most recently, landscape imagery obtained through satellite remote sensing techniques is being integrated with our information about distributions and abundances of breeding birds to assess bird/habitat relationships at the landscape scale across New York State's 30 million acres (Smith 1989b, 1990). From the very beginning, the series of projects which make up our program in avian conservation and ecology for New York State have been based upon cooperation among a variety of different partners. Indeed, the success of these projects would not have been possible without such partnerships. It is the purpose of this paper to describe these projects, their interrelationships, and their role in contributing to science based conservation of New York State birds.

BREEDING BIRD SURVEYS

To provide the population status component of our bird conservation program, New York State has 112 Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) Routes, covered each summer by 80 or more volunteers, who contribute more than 500 total hours annually to the project (Fig. 1). The BBS was begun nationally in 1965 with the purpose of obtaining annual information useful in assessing the population status of North American breeding birds. A detailed account of the history and procedures employed by the BBS can be found in Robbins *et al.* (1986). Briefly stated, the BBS employs a modified transect sampling procedure along a specified 24.5 mile automobile route. Volunteer observers who are thoroughly familiar with the birds of their region travel assigned survey routes during the breeding season, beginning exactly one-half hour before local sunrise, stopping every one-half mile, observing for three minutes, and counting and recording everything they see or hear during each three minute period. The result is a representative sample of the breeding birds along the survey route, from which indices of abundance for breeding bird species can be derived.

Each volunteer observer is responsible for summarizing the observations for their assigned route and submitting the results to the USFWS. In New York an individual observer may be responsible for one to seven survey routes, depending upon their expertise and enthusiasm. Each survey route requires from 4 to 4.5 hours in the field, followed by 1 to 1.5 hours to complete written reports for submission to the USFWS.

When I became coordinator for the BBS in New York State at the end of 1985, participation in that project had reached its lowest point in 20 years. Unfortunately, my predecessor had failed to involve our leading state bird conservation organization, the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, directly in the BBS. Since 1985, coverage of our BBS routes has climbed steadily from a low of nearly 50% to recent highs of 80% or better (Fig. 1). A key to this success has been full and explicit incorporation of the BBS into the research agenda of the Federation, with frequent personal contact and feedback to participants, both through verbal reports of progress at annual meetings of the FNYSSBC, and through an annual printed newsletter to volunteers now prepared and distributed by the BBS coordinators at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Laurel, Maryland.

A summary of the BBS data collected from 1966 through 1985 (Smith

1989a) has been useful to NYSDEC, in combination with our breeding bird atlas data, in setting management goals and priorities for the breeding birds of the state. For example, in December 1993, breeding bird atlas information and BBS population status information figured prominently in a review and update of NYSDEC's list of species identified as endangered, threatened, or of special concern in New York State. Several Federation members, including myself, were invited to participate in that review process. At a larger scale, BBS data from New York State also have contributed to our understanding of the population status of breeding birds in the northeastern United States (Smith *et al.* 1993). And in October 1993, the Breeding Bird Survey was transferred administratively to the newly formed National Biological Survey, a bureau of the Department of the Interior, charged by Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt with the responsibility for monitoring status and trends of biological indicators of environmental health throughout the United States.

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS

The New York State Breeding Bird Atlas was initiated in 1979 by the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs (FNYSBC) in cooperation with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). The New York atlas project was modeled after the very successful British breeding bird atlas, published in 1976 (Sharrock 1976), and recently repeated a second time (Gibbons *et al.* 1993). Originally conceived as a ten year project, our Breeding Bird Atlas concluded in 1988, with publication of *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State* (Andrle and Carroll 1988). With the careful leadership of Gordon M. Meade, Richard Sloss, Robert Andrle, Janet Carroll, and a management team of additional Federation members, the project concluded six months ahead of schedule and approximately \$5,000 under budget.

For our breeding bird atlas, funding was provided primarily by NYSDEC's Return A Gift To Wildlife Program, with Federation members providing the volunteer work force needed to do the job. Nearly 4,000 volunteers contributed some 200,000 hours of field work toward completion of the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas. The value of those in kind services from our volunteers was nearly \$1.5

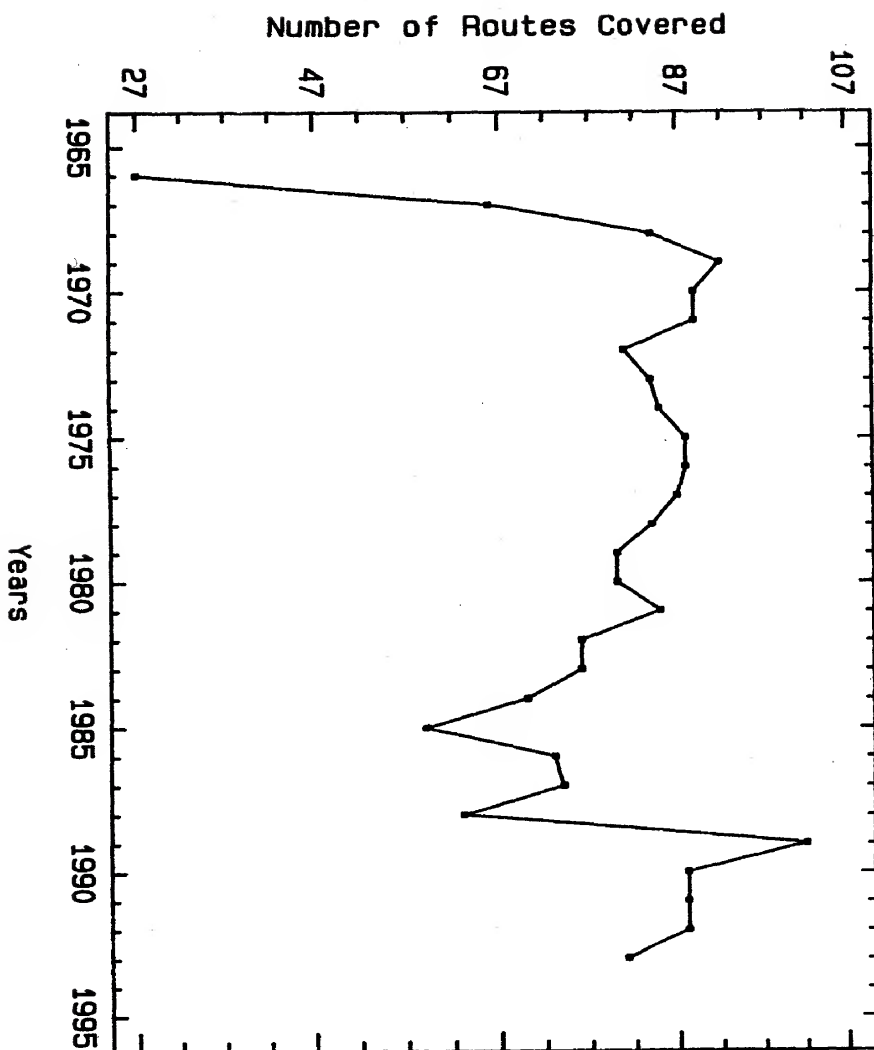


Figure 1. Numbers of New York State Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) Routes completed annually from 1966 through 1993. Counts of birds from BBS Routes provide information about breeding bird species abundances across New York State. Such information is essential for determining population status and trends of species and helping to set priorities for conservation. The author became State BBS Coordinator after the 1985 field season.

million, with NYSDEC receiving returns of almost \$20 worth of volunteer services for each dollar it invested in the project. The success of the project was due, in large part, to frequent personal contact and direct training of volunteers, coordinated with production of a newsletter distributed to volunteers three times a year to report the project's progress. Production of the published atlas required the services of two full-time editors, four artists, and 19 contributing authors.

The New York State Breeding Bird Atlas achieved a 99.8% coverage of the land area of the state (30 million acres) using 5,335 survey blocks, each nine square miles in area. To date, New York State is the largest land area in the world covered with the thoroughness and detail achieved in our breeding bird atlas. Today, our atlas data are a significant component of the New York State Gap Analysis Project of the National Biological Survey (Scott *et al.* 1991), and planning already is underway for the second New York State Breeding Bird Atlas, scheduled to begin in 1999. As the British have demonstrated quite clearly, repetition of the breeding bird atlas at approximately twenty year intervals provides valuable information about the changing distributions of the breeding birds of a region (Gibbons *et al.* 1993).

STATE PARKS CHECKLISTS

In 1987 the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) formed a Birdlife Advisory Committee, composed largely of Federation members, to advise parks staff and administrators in conservation of birds on state parks and historic sites. A major initiative under the direction of the Birdlife Advisory Committee has been the State Parks Checklist Project. To date, bird checklists have been produced for 13 state parks and historic sites (Table 1). Local member clubs of the Federation have been instrumental in collecting and documenting information for production of state parks checklists.

In managing any land area for conservation of birds, an inventory of the species occurring within that area is essential. Without such an inventory, neither the species content of the managed area, nor its context in the larger assemblages of species making up the surrounding region, can be assessed accurately. So far, the state parks checklists provide documented occurrences for at least 353 species of birds, approximately 80% of the total species reported for New York State, on lands managed by OPRHP (Table 1). Among those 353 species reported from the state parks and historic sites listed in Table 1, there are 26 species of birds listed as endangered, threatened, or of management concern by the NYSDEC in 1993 (Cobb 1993). As more checklists are

created and published, a clearer picture than ever before will emerge of the contribution of state parks to maintaining the bird species richness of New York State. Information about kinds of birds and where they are found is essential to parks planners and their staff in determining the extent of their stewardship responsibilities. Such information gives a better idea of the contribution of local state parks or historic sites to maintaining local and regional bird species diversity, since state parks and historic sites are among the most protected of public land areas in New York. These checklists of birds found in our state parks and historic sites also serve an important function through informing the public and increasing the awareness of citizens and elected representatives of the variety of birds found in such protected areas.

Park or Historic Site	Total Species	Park Size (acres)	Percent of NYS Total
Allegany State Park	245	63,000	55.6
Bear Mountain/Harriman State Parks	253	51,000	57.4
Caleb Smith State Park Preserve	153	543	34.7
Clay Pit Ponds State Park Preserve	173	250	39.2
Connetquot River State Park Preserve	193	3473	43.8
Crown Point State Historic Site	180	360	40.8
Hamlin Beach State Park	272	1200	61.7
Heckscher State Park	281	1657	63.7
Jones Beach State Park	329	2400	74.6
Letchworth State Park	225	14,350	51.1
Saratoga Spa State Park	156	2200	35.4
Sunken Meadow State Park	214	1200	48.5
Thousand Islands State Park	266	15,046	60.3

Table 1. The variety of species reported on state parks checklists completed as of April 1994. As of 5 February 1994, 441 species of birds have been reported from New York State by the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs. Species numbers and acreages for state parks are from state parks checklists. So far, the state parks checklists provide documented occurrences for at least 353 species of birds, approximately 80% of the total species reported for New York State, on lands managed by OPRHP. In some cases, parks with fewer species of birds might not have been studied as intensively by birdwatchers as those with more species, so that there may be sampling biases of an unknown nature in some of the species counts.

FINGER LAKES NATIONAL FOREST STUDY

Lessons learned from our large scale survey projects in New York are being applied to a comprehensive model program of monitoring and inventorying breeding birds at a local scale for a smaller area (14,000 acres), the Finger Lakes National Forest (FLNF). The key partners in this effort are the U.S. Forest Service, FNYSCB, and the Department of Natural Resources at Cornell University. In 1992, we were joined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the New York Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at Cornell. At FLNF, we have used breeding bird atlas and habitat specific point count methodologies to determine distributions and relative abundances for 120 species of breeding birds, 50% of the breeding bird species recorded from New York State (Andrle and Carroll 1988) on a land area only 0.05% of the total land area of New York State. Volunteers have contributed significantly to our breeding bird atlas for FLNF, and undergraduate interns from Cornell's Department of Natural Resources have participated in summer research at FLNF since the project began in 1989 (Smith 1991a).

The breeding bird atlas for FLNF is the first in North America to be conducted on a relatively small land area, and the first to be completed for any forest in the National Forest System. In 1992, the FNYSCB held its first annual Summer Field Foray at Finger Lakes National Forest, with the objective of collecting additional information about the kinds, distributions, and abundances of the breeding birds of FLNF, the only national forest in New York State. Volunteers conducted BBS miniroutes, assisted with nest searches, point counts, and additional breeding bird inventory work during 1992. Another important result of this effort has been increased awareness, understanding, and sensitivity among volunteer participants for the work done by the Forest Service and other resource management agencies. Habitat specific surveys of breeding birds are continuing on FLNF as part of a national program of monitoring and assessing productivities of breeding birds, the Breeding Bird Biology Information and Research Database (BBIRD) of the National Biological Survey.

Information collected at FLNF already has provided managers with information needed to assure conservation of rare grassland bird species such as Grasshopper Sparrow and Henslow's Sparrow, which occur on public pasturelands at FLNF (Smith 1992, Smith and Smith 1992). In addition, our research team in the Department of Natural Resources is using landscape imagery from FLNF, in conjunction with breeding bird atlas data collected by Federation volunteers, to assess the relationships of breeding birds to habitat types that can be identified by sensors on satellites in space. Such information will be useful to managers by helping them determine what kinds of habitats, in what kinds of configurations, for a given area, contribute most to local breeding bird species variety.

CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

From our experiences in New York State, it is clear that partnerships with management agencies are essential to achieving the monitoring and inventory work necessary in planning and setting priorities for bird conservation. Success with volunteers depends upon personal contact and frequent tangible feedback through verbal presentations, training sessions, and printed materials. Efforts must be goal oriented, produce tangible products, and be coordinated by competent, articulate professionals, well-known and respected by volunteers.

The scale at which our efforts have been mounted and their success could not have been possible without the existence of a strong, well managed, project oriented, all volunteer, state organization, the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs. Our projects have been undertaken with the goal of finding out more about the birds of our state in order to provide better for their conservation through meeting the information needs of state and federal resource management agencies. Fund raising, increasing membership, and fostering support for the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs have been by-products of that effort, but never its primary goal, a lesson to which other nongovernmental organizations might pay careful attention. We in New York State now are fortunate to have a wealth of information about the birds of our state. That information is of increasing value for developing comprehensive wildlife conservation and management strategies and has resulted from successful cooperation among a variety of partners, including state and federal agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and academic researchers and educators—a pattern of cooperation demonstrated clearly by the very successful New York State Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

It is indeed an exciting and challenging time to be working for conservation of birds in New York State. Like so many other challenges in the conservation of biological resources, long term conservation of birds depends upon communication and cooperation, not conflict and competition, with a shared, multidisciplinary vision of the needs of the resource foremost in the minds of the various partners. At its September 1991 Annual Meeting, the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, representing some 20,000 members, adopted a resolution of recognition and support for the leadership demonstrated by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in initiating the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Program ("Partners in Flight—Aves de las Americas"). During 1993, a state Partners in Flight Working Group was formed, under the leadership of NYSDEC, with many representatives from the Federation making up its membership. Partners in the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Program and similar initiatives continually have to be mindful that our goal is the conservation of the resource,

migratory birds, rather than perpetuation of a specific agency perspective or promotion of membership in any particular nongovernmental organization. Achieving objectives to reach that conservation goal must be undertaken in the context of a modern, comprehensive approach to wildlife conservation, embracing a wide range of wildlife values and species, while creatively identifying a diversity of funding sources to support wildlife conservation and management.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In addition to the extensive contributions made by volunteers, our program in New York State could not have been possible without funding support from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Forest Service. Recent research into applications of remote sensing to assess bird/habitat relationships has been funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Hatch Project No. NYC-147406) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. C. K. Melin carefully reviewed the manuscript and made several suggestions for its improvement.

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After a period of inactivity, the Bibliography Committee has been reestablished with the goal of producing an annual Bibliography of New York State Ornithology to be printed each year in *The Kingbird*. The Committee is grateful to the following people who served as advisors in working out guidelines and procedures: Allen H. Benton, former Bibliography Committee Chair, Valerie M. Freer, former member of the Bibliography Committee, and Charles R. Smith, Chair of the Federation's Research Committee. The current Bibliography Committee members are Barbara Butler, Valerie Freer, Phyllis Jones (Chair), Walton Sabin and Donald Windsor.

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Please send any additions or corrections to the above bibliography to:
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NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

A Cooperative Gull Hunt by Bald Eagle: The Bald Eagle is known to have a varied diet. Fish, waterfowl and deer carcasses are probably among the most usual winter foods in Sullivan County, New York. Gulls may also be taken as described by Delehanty (*Kingbird* 40:19). Cooperation between two eagles in the capture of any flying prey, however, is apparently uncommon. I here describe the cooperative capture of a gull, probably a Herring Gull. On 15 January 1994, my son, Daniel, and I drove to the Rondout Reservoir to look for Bald Eagles. It was about 10:00 AM when we arrived at the west end of Route 55A. It was windy and very cold. We first watched gulls flying near the powerhouse. We got out of the car to look east towards the main body of the reservoir and immediately saw two mature eagles within 100 yards of us, flying about 20-40 yards above the snow and water. An immature gull was flying between the eagles and we realized that the gull was trapped. Each time it shifted directions, one eagle would change course as if to prevent its escape. After several attempts to snatch the gull, one of the eagles caught it with a talon and pulled its prey to the snow. We had watched the chase for only 30-40 seconds. It appeared to be a cooperative effort, until the meal started. The eagle that killed the gull stood protectively on its prey. The second bird watched for 3-4 minutes and flew off towards the forest. In an extended discussion of hunting techniques, only two cases of cooperative hunting by Bald Eagle (on Snow Geese and rabbits) are described in *The Bald Eagle* by J. M. Gerrard and G. R. Bortolotti (1988). Ellis, Bednarz, Smith and Flemming (*Bioscience* 43,1993) propose that cooperation between raptors may only appear during periods of food deprivation. This may have been the case, since the severe winter limited open water and access to fish and waterfowl.

Thanks to Valerie Freer of Sullivan County Community College for her suggestions on this note.

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American Goldfinch with Nesting Material on Early date: A female American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*) was seen carrying grass on 7 May 1990 in open, mature forest on northern Hunter Island, Pelham Bay Park, Bronx, New York. A male was seen close by. The earliest known New York egg date for this species is 25 June (G. M. Meade, Appendix C in R. F. Andrle & J. R. Carroll, 1988, *The Atlas of breeding birds in New York State*, Cornell Univ. Press, Ithaca & London, 551 pp.)

David S. Künstler, New York City Department of Parks & Recreation, Van Cortlandt & Pelham Bay Parks Administrator's Office, 1 Bronx River Parkway, Bronx, New York, 10462

Unusual Nesting Attempt by Red-tailed Hawk: In the spring of 1993, a pair of Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) constructed a nest on the facade of a building at 74th Street and 5th Avenue in New York City, overlooking Central Park. The nest was woven around metal spikes set in the ornamental plasterwork above a window. The spikes were placed there to discourage roosting of Rock Dove. The building management delayed planned maintenance to accommodate the birds. Although brooding was observed for several weeks, the pair eventually abandoned the effort. Building employees then determined that the nest contained 3 unhatched eggs. The male was believed to be a young bird which had summered in Central Park in 1992.

Norman Stotz, New York City Audubon, 71 W 23rd Street, New York, New York 10010

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING SEASON

ROBERT SPAHN

As usual, the weather played a dominant role in shaping the birding events of the spring season. Over most of the State, the brutal conditions of a prolonged winter continued their hold well into or through March. The cold was less severe or moderated a bit earlier in the southeastern and western Regions, but over most of the State, most ponds and smaller lakes remained ice bound through March and even well into April in the northern Regions. Snowfall and snow cover persisted through much of April in parts of Regions 5, 6, and 7. There was some respite in April, with all Regions reporting above average temperatures and precipitation. This brought rapid snow melt and flooding to Regions 3 and 4, with a bonus in Region 4 of particularly good conditions for ducks and shorebirds in the flooded fields. May began chilled and damp over nearly all the State, with bursts of warmth in the latter half of the month.

Many observations fit with expectations from the above weather patterns. Early migrants, especially waterfowl, were delayed up to about two weeks in arrival. Small breaks in the weather, such as 21-24 Mar, 15 Apr, late April, and 15 May brought bursts of migrants and, in some cases, exciting rarities. Early April arrivals were basically on time. In many Regions, nearly all birds expected between late April and 5 May arrived in a flood of early to record early arrival dates in late April. Check the sea of boldfaced dates in the arrival dates tables. Those species that missed this window tended not to show until after mid May, and many of the late arriving species were a few days later than expected.

There are many ways to try to organize a season's data. I'll begin with observations related to long-term and widespread trends we've been watching and conclude with events that appear more local in space or time. However, readers should remember that most species appear in only 1-5 Regional reports, so that drawing conclusions relative to statewide populations is risky or impossible in many cases. In reporting highlights it is easy to get excited about out of season records, big congregations, and rarities. It is harder to deal with low numbers or unreported birds. There is always the question, at every level of reporting, whether data are missing due to actual scarcity, vagaries of the weather or fieldwork, or whether a bird was so common or typical that reporters did not feel it worth reporting. I (and I assume the Regional editors as well) would welcome your suggestions of ways to deal better with population trends and with missing or totally routine observations.

Arrival Dates Seasonality and Advance

Region	Species Reported	Seasonality (days)	Advance (days)
Region 1	91	-1.2	-1.7
Region 2	92	-1.7	-4.2
Region 3	92	-3.5	-2.6
Region 4	78	-1.3	2.5
Region 5	92	-3.1	-1.5
Region 6	87	-3.8	5.8
Region 7	87	-3.3	7.6
Region 8	86	-3.3	0.4
Region 9	65	-2.4	-2.8
Region 10	74	-1.0	-3.9

Seasonality measures the average difference (in days) between this year's arrival dates and the long term average dates for the *same* Region. *Advance* measures the average difference between this year's arrivals dates in one Region and the arrival dates averaged over all ten Regions. Negative values mean early.

The biggest event of the season is the multitude of record early arrival dates, especially for vireos and warblers. There were a few other record early dates of special note, such as Semipalmated Plover in Region 2, Solitary Sandpiper in Region 6, Osprey in Regions 3 and 7, Black-bellied Plover in Region 2, Least Sandpiper in Region 10, Caspian Tern in Regions 1, 2, 3, and 5, Least Flycatcher in Region 4, Great Crested Flycatcher in Regions 2 and 8, and House Wren in Regions 2 and 3. A few reports, such as an April Willow Flycatcher, and isolated very early Veery, Swainson's Thrush, and Wood Thrush reports, contrast with the rest of the arrival date table and with historical records so much as to demand written details (not alluded to in material in my hands). The wave of early vireo and warbler records finds the five widely reported

Spring Arrivals 1994

Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average
Black-billed Cuckoo	15 May	22 May	13 May	15 May	14 May	18 May		14 May		14 May	15 May
Common Nighthawk	15 May	24 Apr	3 May	17 May	16 May	22 May	25 May	28 May			15 May
Chimney Swift	22 Apr	30 Apr	21 Apr	27 Apr	24 Apr	30 Apr	4 May	24 Mar	20 Apr	7 Apr	20 Apr
Ruby-thr Hummingbird	2 May	7 May	7 May	30 Apr	6 May	11 May	8 May	28 Apr	18 Apr		3 May
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	7 Apr	24 Mar	10 Apr	6 Apr	3 Apr	12 Apr	9 Apr	2 Apr	17 Apr	8 Apr	6 Apr
Olive-sided Flycatcher	15 May	21 May	15 May		25 May		27 May	13 May	5 May	14 May	16 May
Eastern Wood-Pewee	11 May	4 May	14 May	14 May	10 May	15 May	24 May	19 May		15 May	14 May
Alder Flycatcher	15 May	22 May	13 May	21 May	21 May	22 May	21 May	21 May			19 May
Willow Flycatcher	15 May	14 May	30 Apr	15 May	21 May	22 May		14 May	15 May	15 May	14 May
Least Flycatcher	30 Apr	30 Apr	30 Apr	24 Apr	26 Apr	4 May	6 May	30 Apr	30 Apr	30 Apr	30 Apr
Eastern Phoebe	23 Mar	23 Mar	19 Mar	25 Mar	24 Mar	26 Mar	24 Mar	22 Mar	31 Mar	4 Mar	22 Mar
Gr. Crested Flycatcher	26 Apr	23 Apr	30 Apr	26 Apr	26 Apr	28 Apr	7 May	24 Apr		27 Apr	27 Apr
Eastern Kingbird	25 Apr	25 Apr	26 Apr	26 Apr	26 Apr	28 Apr	30 Apr	26 Apr	17 Apr	27 Apr	25 Apr
Purple Martin	10 Apr	9 Apr	16 Apr		13 Apr	15 Apr	19 Apr	11 May	17 Apr	9 Apr	16 Apr
Tree Swallow	23 Mar	23 Mar	12 Mar	12 Mar	21 Mar	24 Mar	1 Apr	18 Mar	24 Mar	19 Mar	20 Mar
N. Rough-winged Swallow	10 Apr	14 Apr	9 Apr	30 Apr	14 Apr	4 May	23 Apr	12 Apr	15 Apr	27 Mar	15 Apr
Bank Swallow	30 Apr	24 Apr	16 Apr	17 Apr	19 Apr	4 May	8 May	21 Apr	9 Apr	20 Apr	22 Apr
Cliff Swallow	1 May	5 May	16 Apr	13 May	19 Apr	28 Apr	4 May	18 Apr	21 Apr	21 Apr	26 Apr
Barn Swallow	10 Apr	9 Apr	7 Apr	17 Apr	13 Apr	5 Apr	9 Apr	12 Apr	17 Apr	27 Mar	9 Apr
House Wren	19 Apr	9 Apr	9 Apr	20 Apr	18 Apr	27 Apr	5 May	16 Apr	15 Apr	13 Apr	18 Apr
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2 Apr	13 Apr	9 Apr	4 Apr	10 Apr	16 Apr	12 Apr	3 Apr		5 Apr	8 Apr
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	16 Apr	16 Apr	16 Apr	19 Apr	18 Apr	27 Apr	6 May	17 Apr	3 Apr	3 Apr	17 Apr
Eastern Bluebird		9 Mar		1 Mar	19 Feb	27 Mar	30 Mar				11 Mar
Veery	3 May	23 Apr	2 May	9 May	3 May	3 May	6 May	1 May	27 Apr	28 Apr	1 May
Swainson's Thrush	14 May	24 Apr	13 May	10 May	5 May	17 May	15 May	14 May	7 May	1 May	9 May
Hermit Thrush	10 Apr	9 Apr	4 Apr	14 Apr	9 Apr	26 Apr	15 Apr	2 Apr			11 Apr
Wood Thrush	23 Apr	23 Apr	22 Apr	8 Apr	24 Apr	30 Apr	2 May	27 Apr	22 Apr	28 Apr	23 Apr
Gray Catbird	26 Apr	27 Apr	28 Apr	28 Apr	26 Apr	2 May	30 Apr	24 Apr			27 Apr
Brown Thrasher	10 Apr	16 Apr	7 Apr	19 Apr	10 Apr	27 Apr	1 May	16 Apr		17 Mar	13 Apr
Solitary Vireo	17 Apr	24 Apr	15 Apr	17 Apr	16 Apr	28 Apr	21 Apr	16 Apr	15 Apr	12 Apr	18 Apr
Yellow-throated Vireo	24 Apr	24 Apr	27 Apr	28 Apr	29 Apr	11 May	17 May	1 May	30 Apr	18 Apr	29 Apr
Warbling Vireo	26 Apr	25 Apr	26 Apr	26 Apr	22 Apr	26 Apr	27 Apr	28 Apr	27 Apr	27 Apr	26 Apr
Red-eyed Vireo	26 Apr	27 Apr	29 Apr	19 Apr	26 Apr	10 May	11 May	29 Apr	29 Apr	27 Apr	29 Apr

Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average
Tennessee Warbler	7 May	10 May	30 Apr	14 May	6 May	10 May	10 May	14 May	5 May	30 Apr	7 May
Nashville Warbler	27 Apr	26 Apr	26 Apr	26 Apr	25 Apr	28 Apr	27 Apr	1 May	28 Apr	24 Apr	26 Apr
Northern Parula	29 Apr	19 Apr	26 Apr	21 May	27 Apr	7 May	16 May	1 May	27 Apr	8 Apr	30 Apr
Yellow Warbler	25 Apr	19 Apr	25 Apr	26 Apr	24 Apr	29 Apr	30 Apr	23 Apr	9 Apr	21 Apr	23 Apr
Chestnut-sided Warbler	28 Apr	25 Apr	26 Apr	1 May	26 Apr	28 Apr	9 May	26 Apr	4 May	28 Apr	29 Apr
Magnolia Warbler	9 May	24 Apr	29 Apr	7 May	29 Apr	4 May	14 May	7 May	30 Apr	29 Apr	3 May
Cape May Warbler	8 May	24 Apr	29 Apr	7 May	28 Apr	12 May	14 May	6 May		28 Apr	4 May
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	29 Apr	27 Apr	17 Apr	30 Apr	26 Apr	28 Apr	2 May	29 Apr	2 May	27 Apr	27 Apr
Black-thr Green Warbler	24 Apr	21 Apr	21 Apr	26 Apr	18 Apr	28 Apr	26 Apr	24 Apr	25 Apr	18 Apr	23 Apr
Blackburnian Warbler	4 May	27 Apr	1 May	2 May	29 Apr	3 May	1 May	30 Apr	28 Apr	30 Apr	30 Apr
Pine Warbler	18 Apr	15 Apr	4 Apr	27 Apr	9 Apr	20 Apr	16 Apr	26 Apr	3 Apr	22 Mar	12 Apr
Palm Warbler	26 Apr	23 Apr	16 Apr	10 Apr	15 Apr	28 Apr	7 May	4 Apr	10 Apr	6 Apr	17 Apr
Bay-breasted Warbler	12 May	12 May	27 Apr	14 May	8 May	14 May	17 May	1 May	8 May	30 Apr	8 May
Blackpoll Warbler	15 May	12 May	1 May	21 May	6 May	18 May	20 May	7 May	9 May	10 May	11 May
Black-and-white Warbler	25 Apr	19 Apr	26 Apr	26 Apr	24 Apr	28 Apr	27 Apr	17 Apr	15 Apr	11 Apr	21 Apr
American Redstart	27 Apr	27 Apr	2 May	28 Apr	30 Apr	4 May	9 May	1 May		18 Apr	29 Apr
Ovenbird	3 May	21 Apr	21 Apr	26 Apr	27 Apr	3 May	2 May	27 Apr	26 Apr	19 Apr	26 Apr
Northern Waterthrush	26 Apr	24 Apr	16 Apr	27 Apr	25 Apr	26 Apr	27 Apr	25 Apr	25 Apr	25 Apr	24 Apr
Mourning Warbler	11 May	16 May	6 May	21 May	14 May	30 May	11 May	19 May			16 May
Common Yellowthroat	11 Apr	23 Apr	26 Apr	30 Apr	26 Apr	4 May	5 May	17 Apr	26 Apr	18 Apr	24 Apr
Wilson's Warbler	15 May	11 May	14 May		11 May	15 May		13 May	11 May	11 May	12 May
Canada Warbler	14 May	11 May	12 May	11 May	9 May	15 May	21 May	14 May	2 May	30 Apr	10 May
Scarlet Tanager	29 Apr	19 Apr	24 Apr	1 May	2 May	10 May	4 May	1 May	27 Apr	26 Apr	29 Apr
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	27 Apr	26 Apr	27 Apr	26 Apr	28 Apr	2 May	27 Apr	24 Apr	26 Apr	27 Apr	27 Apr
Indigo Bunting	1 May	30 Apr	1 May	1 May	9 May	12 May	11 May	1 May	27 Apr	27 Apr	3 May
Rufous-sided Towhee	26 Mar	1 Apr	28 Mar	9 Apr	10 Apr	16 Apr	6 Apr	16 Apr		1 Apr	5 Apr
Chipping Sparrow	7 Apr	9 Apr	6 Apr	6 Apr	4 Apr	12 Apr	3 Apr	9 Mar	1 Apr	2 Apr	2 Apr
Vesper Sparrow	3 Apr	6 Apr	10 Apr	4 Apr	3 Apr	4 Apr	26 Mar	9 Apr			4 Apr
Savannah Sparrow	2 Apr	1 Apr	28 Mar	3 Apr	3 Apr	9 Apr	6 Apr	8 Apr	20 Mar		2 Apr
Lincoln's Sparrow	27 Apr	27 Apr	29 Apr	24 Apr	24 Apr	14 May	30 Apr	29 Apr		10 May	30 Apr
White-crowned Sparrow	26 Apr	24 Apr	29 Apr	17 Apr	26 Apr	14 Apr	28 Apr	30 Apr		1 May	25 Apr
Bobolink	1 May	24 Apr	27 Apr	29 Apr	1 May	28 Apr	4 May	2 May	3 May	1 May	30 Apr
Northern Oriole	26 Apr	26 Apr	27 Apr	26 Apr	26 Apr	28 Apr	4 May	27 Apr	25 Apr	7 Apr	25 Apr

Bold Regional Record Early

Italics Also isolated earlier report(s).

Waterbird Arrivals

1994

Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average
American Bittern	10 Apr	1 Apr	10 Apr		10 Apr	12 Apr	22 Apr	13 Apr	3 Apr		10 Apr
Green Heron	10 Apr	26 Apr	17 Apr	1 May	19 Apr	12 May	2 May	15 Apr	25 Apr	14 Apr	23 Apr
Wood Duck	21 Feb	27 Feb	13 Mar	11 Mar	13 Mar	26 Mar	24 Mar	13 Mar	20 Mar	6 Apr	14 Mar
Green-winged Teal	20 Mar	8 Mar	25 Mar	26 Mar	23 Mar	25 Mar	8 Mar	23 Mar			19 Mar
Northern Pintail	13 Feb	21 Feb	6 Mar	26 Mar	10 Mar	19 Mar	26 Mar	6 Mar	26 Mar		10 Mar
Blue-winged Teal	23 Mar	8 Mar	25 Mar	9 Apr	23 Mar	9 Apr	10 Apr	30 Mar	25 Mar	11 Apr	29 Mar
Osprey	1 Apr	1 Apr	24 Mar	4 Apr	2 Apr	2 Apr	24 Mar	6 Apr		13 Mar	29 Mar
Virginia Rail	17 Apr	10 Apr	19 Mar		13 Apr	22 Apr	3 May	10 Apr			13 Apr
Sora	21 Apr	23 Apr	20 Apr		24 Apr	30 Apr	14 May	23 Apr			26 Apr
Common Moorhen	27 Apr	14 Apr	11 May	14 May	23 Apr	29 Apr		5 May			30 Apr
Black-bellied Plover	16 May	19 Apr	1 May		1 May		10 May				3 May
Semipalmated Plover	14 May	27 Mar	30 Apr		14 May		24 May		2 May	1 May	3 May
Killdeer	18 Feb	5 Feb	8 Mar	14 Mar	27 Feb	8 Mar	23 Mar	11 Mar	3 Mar	20 Mar	5 Mar
Greater Yellowlegs	26 Mar	1 Apr	11 Apr	24 Apr	2 Apr	18 Apr	24 Apr	24 Apr	30 Mar		10 Apr
Lesser Yellowlegs	2 Apr	10 Apr	24 Apr	18 May	8 Apr	27 Apr	26 Apr	26 Apr	30 Mar	28 Apr	19 Apr
Solitary Sandpiper	27 Apr	15 Apr	27 Apr	27 Apr	15 Apr	28 Apr	27 Apr	1 May		1 May	25 Apr
Spotted Sandpiper	19 Apr	24 Apr	13 Apr	14 Apr	23 Apr	12 May	30 Apr	16 Apr	23 Apr	17 Apr	22 Apr
Sanderling			15 May								15 May
Semipalmated Sandpiper	11 May	2 May	16 May		15 May		27 May	20 May	7 May	7 May	13 May
Least Sandpiper	1 May	1 May	1 May	19 May	29 Apr	8 May	11 May	14 May	18 Apr	3 Apr	1 May
Pectoral Sandpiper	3 Apr	27 Mar	24 Apr		1 Apr		15 May			9 May	18 Apr
Common Snipe	26 Mar	6 Apr	17 Mar	10 Apr	25 Mar	2 Apr	16 Apr	27 Mar	24 Mar		30 Mar
American Woodcock	20 Mar	22 Mar	22 Mar	12 Mar	23 Mar	23 Mar	5 Apr	24 Mar	5 Mar	13 Mar	20 Mar
Caspian Tern	9 Apr	7 Apr	9 Apr		10 Apr	18 Apr				1 May	14 Apr
Common Tern	10 Apr	10 Apr	1 May		22 Apr	28 Apr	10 May		7 May	26 Apr	25 Apr
Black Tern	1 May	30 Apr	1 May		19 May	2 May	10 May	14 May		7 May	6 May
Marsh Wren	30 Apr	23 Apr	24 Apr		23 Apr	9 May	28 Apr	14 May	25 Apr	1 May	29 Apr

Bold Regional Record Early*Italics* Also isolated earlier report(s).

vireos and at least 25 species of warblers noted as arriving before or on record early dates in some Region, with four species of vireos and 15 species of warblers found on or prior to the record early dates published in J. Bull's *Birds of New York State* (1974). There are so many dates and Regions involved that I can't begin to mention all of them here. Especially notable were Red-eyed Vireo, which matched or beat the record date in seven Regions, and Chestnut-sided Warbler, which did so in six Regions. In view of this, it should come as no great surprise that the arrival date table shows the average arrival date over all Regions to be the earliest since we began keeping these data. Relative to the averages of the past seven springs, one water bird and 22 species of land bird averaged statistically significantly early. Only American Woodcock and Eastern Wood-Pewee averaged significantly late.

Turning to other trends, the Double-crested Cormorant population continued to increase, notably in Region 6. We have been watching downward waterfowl population trends for many years. There is little this season to change that impression. Yet, several of the rarer species are being found more frequently: *Ross' Goose* in Region 5, Greater White-fronted Goose in Regions 1, 3, and 10, and Barrow's Goldeneye in Regions 3, 4, 7, and 8. There were good counts of Snow Goose in the eastern Regions, including 3500 in Region 6, and of Ring-necked Duck, including 1150 in Region 3, as well as the not so welcome continued spread of the Mute Swan. Among the raptors, we find Turkey Vulture increasing across the State, more inland Osprey nests, Bald Eagle numbers continuing to climb with record high counts at both the Braddock Bay and Derby Hill hawk watches, Red-shouldered Hawk continuing in trouble, and falcon reports generally increased, including *Gyr Falcon* in Regions 6 and 7. The decline of the Ring-necked Pheasant and the increase of Wild Turkey, the latter perhaps hurt by the tough winter in some Regions, both continued. *Sandhill Crane* continued its pattern of increasing reports, this spring from Regions 1, 2, and 5. The low numbers of reports and decreasing shorebird totals also continue an alarming trend. Spotted and Upland Sandpipers warrant careful tracking along with many other species. Contrarily, Wilson's Phalarope was spotted in five Regions and probably nested again in Region 7. In some Regions, Iceland and Glaucous Gull reversed a recent trend of decreases relative to the 1970s, while Lesser Black-backed Gull continues to increase, with reports from five Regions. The return of a *White-winged Tern* to Region 6, though only for a day, continued a pattern of sightings in North America. The goatsucker picture continued bleak in most Regions. The increase of Red-headed and Red-bellied Woodpeckers in the northern Regions continued, though it remains to be seen what impact the harsh winter had. Passerines continue to elicit concern, with the preponderance of notes and commentary negatives. For a brighter

start, both Common Raven and Fish Crow, noted in five Regions apiece, continue their spread. There are many indications that the severe winter hurt expanding populations of the Carolina Wren. Birders from Regions 5 and 10 are starting to report a soon to be countable species in the form of reports of "Bicknell's" Gray-cheeked Thrush. A pleasant surprise was the finding of *Loggerhead Shrike* in six Regions, the greatest number in many years, hopefully a sign of better prospects for this species now endangered in our State. Among the warblers, Tennessee and Cape May deserve particular attention after many negative comments in recent years, whereas increases in Yellow-throated Warbler and Prairie Warbler reports, the last noted in six Regions, are positives. Yet another State record for *Swainson's Warbler*, a first for Region 5, was obtained. The grassland sparrows continued scarce, with even fewer reports than usual for Henslow's Sparrow. Finally, we find a few reports related to trends in blackbirds, with Yellow-headed Blackbird in Regions 1, 3, and 5; no Brewer's Blackbird this spring; and a first record for *Boat-tailed Grackle* moving north from New York City, with one in Region 9.

Turning to more local events, the first is the very good counts for Horned and Red-necked Grebes in several Regions following the major grebe exodus from the Great Lakes in the late winter. Someone else will have to determine where all these birds came from, because they were not suspected to be so numerous on the Great Lakes in winter. In any case, the peak Horned Grebe count is from Region 10, the peaks for Red-necked Grebe from Regions 1 and 3. Late in the season, very high White-winged Scoter counts came from Regions 1 and 2, including 10,800 from Region 2, though these may be contrasted with a relatively normal high of 40,000 mixed scoters in Region 10 in mid March. The many Little Gull records in Regions 1 and 2, including several immatures in Region 2, are unusual. In Region 10, a beach reconstruction project resulted in a major gull happening in mid March, including the presence of Little, Common Black-headed, Lesser Black-backed, and many Iceland and Glaucous Gulls, topped by the State's second *Ross' Gull* seen off and on for two weeks. Snowy Owl lingered in Region 2. Bohemian Waxwing set a State record late in Region 7, while an astounding count of 1200-1500 was noted a bit earlier in Region 6. American Tree Sparrow also set a record late date in Region 8. All of the winter finches were reported again this season, with Pine Grosbeak lingering into May and only a few reports of each crossbill. Large counts of Common Redpoll were turned in from most Regions, and *Hoary Redpoll* reported in Regions 4, 5, 6, and 7, with the latest present through 11 and 12 April in Regions 7 and 4.

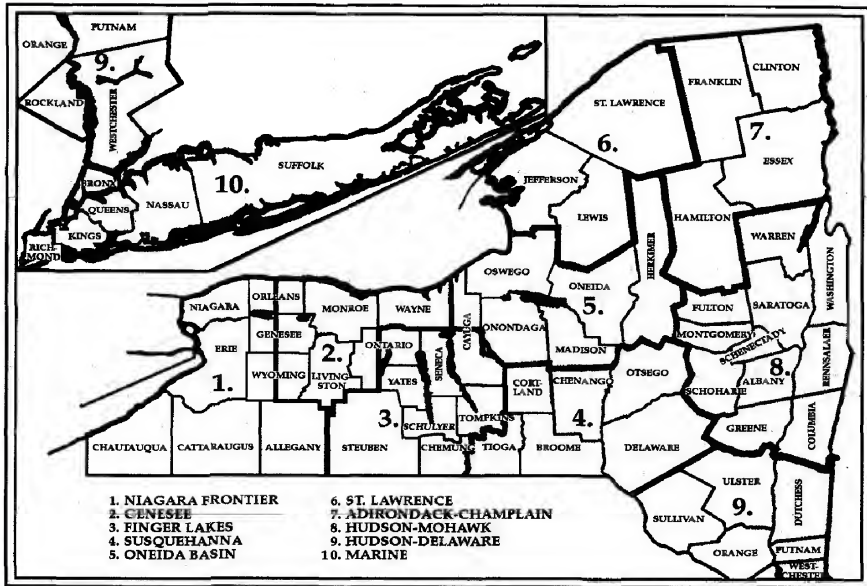
As usual, there are numerous interesting comments and observations in the Regional reports. These range from spring count and hawk watch summaries, appearing in some form in most Regional reports, to short

behavior notes and banding records. To whet your appetites, I found: note of the occurrence of a western subspecies of White-breasted Nuthatch in Region 3; Snow Bunting and Indigo Bunting together at a feeder in Region 4; Common Tern nests again heavily predated by Ruddy Turnstone in Region 5; note on the general lack of effects of the 10 May eclipse of the sun on local birds in Region 7; and the note of caution from Region 10 for those concluding that they've spotted a vagrant soaring Anhinga.

Of course, some of the most exciting events of any spring migration are the findings of rarities. The best of these by Region are: *Tricolored Heron*, Eurasian Wigeon, Ruff, White-eyed Vireo, Connecticut Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and Orchard Oriole in Region 1; Trumpeter Swan (a bird from the Ontario reintroduction?), *Mississippi Kite*, *Swainson's Hawk*, *King Rail*, Common Raven, *Fish Crow*, and *LeConte's Sparrow* in Region 2; *American White Pelican*, Greater White-fronted Goose, Barrow's Goldeneye, and Yellow-headed Blackbird in Region 3; Kentucky Warbler and *Hoary Redpoll* in Region 4; *Ross' Goose*, *Sandhill Crane*, *Scissor-tailed Flycatcher*, *Yellow-throated Warbler*, *Swainson's Warbler*, Worm-eating warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and *Hoary Redpoll* in Region 5; Barrow's Goldeneye, *Gyr Falcon*, and *White-winged Tern* in Region 6; *Gyr Falcon*, nesting Wilson's Phalarope, Forster's Tern, *Fish Crow*, Blue-winged Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, and *Hoary Redpoll* in Region 7; Glossy Ibis, Barrow's Goldeneye, and Lesser Black-backed Gull in Region 8; [the Region 9 report had not arrived in time for this summary]; and *Mississippi Kite*, *Swallow-tailed Kite*, and *Ross' Gull*, plus the usual large number of regional regulars which would make headlines in most other regions, in Region 10. However, the B.O.T.S. Award goes to the incredibly out of place *Yellow-nosed Albatross* at Crown Point in Region 7 on 8 May.

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REPORTING REGIONS



Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, *except at:*

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties: the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia, NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19 from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County: the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64 from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21 from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County: the boundary is NY Route 31.

REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February

Deadline is 7 March

Spring Season: March, April, May

Deadline is 7 June

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December

INDEX TO VOLUMES 31-40

The cumulative Index to Volumes 31-40 (1981-1990) of The Kingbird has been mailed to all members and subscribers except those members who joined The Federation in 1991 or later.

You are in the latter category if there is an "N" in the upper right corner of the mailing label on this issue of The Kingbird. Any of those members who want the described Index may request one from the Circulation Manager: Berna Lincoln, PO Box 296, Somers, NY 10589.

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

WILLIE D'ANNA

March was seasonal with a lack of extremes. Temperatures and precipitation were both normal for the month. The gradual warming permitted the deep snowpack to run off in safe quantities. However, the Region's ponds and lakes, deeply frozen from the bitter winter, remained mostly closed. As a result, the waterfowl migration was two weeks late. A flight of 1238 Tundra Swan past the Lakeside Cemetery hawk watch in the Town of Hamburg on 31 Mar underscores just how backed up this group was. The traditionally favored Iroquois NWR had only small numbers in the open edges of its pools. Most waterfowl flew right over to the Lake Ontario plain, where shallower puddles in fields thawed more quickly. Similarly, good numbers and variety were found in the fields of CATT. A warm spell 22 to 24 Mar pushed 1661 raptors by Lakeside Cemetery in the Town of Hamburg ERIE, including an impressive 928 Turkey Vulture. Frances Rew, who monitored this site with Barbara Walker, reported that the March total of over 2000 raptors was just short of last year's record.

April was warmer and wetter than usual. Temperatures averaged 3°F above normal and precipitation was 1.15 inches higher. However, it was not until the month's end that the ice finally disappeared from Lake Erie. Inland, Vivian Pitzrick in ALLE noted ice cover well into April on Amity Lake while Steve Eaton remarked that his pond in CATT was not ice free until 12 Apr, the second latest date in 40 years. Despite several days of favorable winds, the hawk flights at Lakeside Cemetery were very poor. The maximum number of Broad-winged Hawk was only 893 on 25 Apr. Even more galling to the observers there were the excellent days enjoyed by counters on Lake Ontario just east and west of the Region. Speculation as to the reason for the poor flights centered on Lake Erie's persistent ice pack, which pushed birds inland. However, this does not explain why the same conditions in March produced very different results. Mild weather on 24 to 27 Apr produced a strong early push of neotropical migrants including three record early dates. Sixteen species of warblers and four species of vireos were recorded on these dates.

Burt Schweigert noted a fallout on 3 Apr in CATT. Warm southerly winds overnight changed to northerly with rain resulting in the following maxima for the season of Common Loon, Pectoral Sandpiper, Am. Pipit, and Vesper Sparrow in addition to uncountable numbers of Red-winged Blackbird and Am. Robin.

Cool and cloudy weather caused by a series of cold fronts kept the migration to a trickle during the first half of May. Birders held their breath, waiting for the explosion that just had to follow. Overnight on 15

May, the temperature was mild and the winds light and southerly. It was the day of the annual B.O.S. May Bird Count. The results were spectacular - for some. In general, the Region to the north and east of Buffalo had a fallout. Specific areas mentioned with warblers tallied were Goat Island (21 species), Fort Niagara (18 species), Wilson-Tuscarora SP (20 species), Williamsville Glen (over 100 individual warblers), and Iroquois NWR. Light rain at dawn prevented the birds from flying over but the rain's intensity increased and did not let up until late afternoon. This prevented the birders from being as thorough as they wanted to be. How many more birds went undetected? May ended with more seasonal weather. Take away the period 15 to 19 May and it was a lousy month for observing the passerine migration.

The 1994 B.O.S. April Bird Count was held on 10 Apr and compiled by Richard Collins. The B.O.S. counts include the adjacent Niagara Peninsula of Ontario, about ten percent of the total area, so the data does not reflect purely Region 1 trends. A total of 137 species were recorded, which is about average. Record high counts were set for Red-throated Loon, Common Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, White-winged Scoter, Wild Turkey, Eastern Screech-Owl, Barred Owl, and Tufted Titmouse. Other significantly high counts included Horned Grebe, Great Egret, Lesser Yellowlegs, Eastern Phoebe, and Common Redpoll. There were no record lows, but significant low totals were had for Red-shouldered Hawk, Great Horned Owl, American Robin, European Starling, White-throated Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, and American Goldfinch. The count highlights were a Eurasian Wigeon and a count first Forster's Tern.

The 1994 B.O.S. May Bird Count on 15 May was compiled by Michael Hamilton, Lynne Landon, and Terry Yonker. The 199 species, two below the ten-year average, plus one hybrid included record high counts for Double-crested Cormorant, Lesser Yellowlegs, Caspian Tern, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse, and Palm Warbler. Other positives were Wild Turkey, Barred Owl, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Black-throated Blue Warbler, and White-crowned Sparrow. Although there were no record lows, but totals for Blue-winged Teal, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Great Horned Owl, Common Nighthawk, Veery, Brown Thrasher, and Indigo Bunting were on the down side. Exciting finds included a *Yellow-headed Blackbird* and a Connecticut Warbler.

Although data from these counts can be misleading, they do have a long history and some of the results cannot be ignored. The increases of Double-crested Cormorant and Caspian Tern are well-known and widespread while Wild Turkey, Red-bellied Woodpecker, and Tufted Titmouse have been increasing locally. Like many of the waterfowl

species, Blue-winged Teal has been in widespread decline. Increases in Lesser Yellowlegs and Barred Owl and decreases in Red-shouldered Hawk and Great Horned Owl are indicated by both counts. These are new trends which deserve continued monitoring. Surprisingly down for two of the last three counts is Brown-headed Cowbird. If this trend holds, this might suggest the sobering idea that there are fewer hosts to rear this parasite's young.

The Nature Conservancy and the Natural Heritage Program conducted the second and probably final year of the Lake Ontario Migratory Bird Project. Kris Agard was the project coordinator. Results from the first year suggest that neotropical migrants show a significant preference for forested, as opposed to brushy habitat and further, that sites on or near the shoreline of Lake Ontario are favored over those which are two miles inland. This is important data to justify conservation of the forests along Lake Ontario for this group of birds. Some of the more interesting finds by birders doing the counts were Orchard Oriole and Peregrine Falcon in NIAG. Near one survey point on the Niagara-Orleans Countyline Road this writer(!) located a Reeve on 30 Apr. The following day Harper(!) could not find the Reeve but found a Ruff instead! Both birds were last seen on 4 May. This same survey point held a Sedge Wren for Robert Wagner later in the season.

After the record flight of Red-throated Loon on Lake Ontario last fall, a good return flight of 51 birds was noted on 10 Apr but none was recorded after that date. Perhaps more unusual were the inland sightings - two at Allegheny Res CATT on 10 Apr and one at Rushford Lake CATT on 29 May. Red-necked Grebe appeared in record numbers in the winter period but the record was really shattered in April. On 8 Apr Morgante counted 175 on Lake Ontario off Shadigee ORLE; the following day this writer found none there. Instead the birds were off the Town of Somerset NIAG where 235 were counted. This species was more widespread than ever inland though usually in just ones and twos.

A pair of adult Bald Eagle were observed by Tim Baird to show strong interest in a nest used last year by Osprey. He watched the eagles hold steadfast against the fury of the Osprey and saw them add sticks to the nest on a later date. Nesting was not meant to be, however, as at last report an Osprey appeared to be incubating on the nest. The only known active eagle nest in the region, at Iroquois NWR, appeared to have at least one nestling by the end of the period.

Shorebirds made a good showing in the region as there was a lot of good habitat in flooded fields. In the Town of Allegany Eaton recorded ten species over three days including a first CATT Ruddy Turnstone. Eleven species were also recorded at the location previously mentioned where the Ruff and Reeve appeared. Tonawanda WMA, perhaps the only regularly productive spring shorebird spot, was good again, with Wilson's Phalarope highlighting the list.

Although the May passerine migration was poor there were a number of great finds making for an excellent spring overall. The best of the best was a cooperative *Tricolored Heron*. This is only the second record in the Region, the first being in 1959 on the Allegheny River 20 May. A very rare dark morph Red-tailed Hawk of the race *B. j. calurus*, though this bird reported annually at Braddock Bay, is one of very few Regional records. Other highlights not mentioned above include Snowy Egret, Glossy Ibis, Greater White-fronted Goose, Northern Goshawk, Merlin, *Sandhill Crane*, Whimbrel, Com. Black-headed Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, "Lawrence's" Warbler, late and possibly nesting Pine Warblers, and Western Meadowlark.

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Abbreviations: BSL - Batavia Sewage Lagoons; BOSAC - Buffalo Ornithological Society April Count, 10 Apr; BOSMC - Buffalo Ornithological Society May Count, 15 May; EA - East Aurora ERIE; INWR - Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; NR - Niagara River; TNP - Tiff Nature Preserve, Buffalo; TWMA - Tonawanda WMA; WG - Williamsville Glen ERIE.

Spring reports: **Red-throated Loon:** *intro.* **Com. Loon:** max 241 Allegheny Res CATT 3 Apr. **Pied-billed Grebe:** arr Buffalo 24 Mar (MD). **Horned Grebe:** *intro.* **Red-necked Grebe:** *intro.* **Double-crested Cormorant:** *intro.* **Am. Bittern:** max seven TWMA 14 May (WD, MT). **Least Bittern:** arr TNP 14 May (D&DS). **Great Egret:** arr two INWR 23 Apr (PB); five other reports involving six birds, a good showing. **Snowy Egret:** Motor I, NR 28 May (WW), not quite annual. **Tricolored Heron:** one TNP 8-20 May (Becht!). **Glossy Ibis:** TWMA 21-23 May (D&MJ!, WD!, WW!, D&DS!); an ibis species INWR 28 May was likely the same bird (WD!, BP). **Tundra Swan:** 44 T Dayton, 340 Salamanca, 22 Buckhorn Is. SP, 50 Eggertsville ERIE 13 Mar, first big movement; INWR 23 May, late. **Greater White-fronted Goose:** *frontalis* T Dayton 13 Mar (BS!); four *flavirostris* T Newstead 26 Mar (D&DS!), one INWR 27 Mar INWR (PY!, BH), and one T Yates 8, 9 Apr (MM!, WW!); unprecedented showing. **Snow Goose:** max 36 T Yates 23 Mar; very few away from Lake Ontario plain this season. **Green-winged Teal:** max 60 T Somerset

& Yates 9 Apr. **Blue-winged Teal**: *intro*. **N. Shoveler**: arr 15 TWMA 25 Mar (LH); max 30 BSL (WL). **Gadwall**: arr two Buffalo 24 Mar (MD). **Eurasian Wigeon**: T Darien GENE 10 Apr (TH!); Buffalo 25 Apr (MD!, WW!, RBr!). **Canvasback**: max 2000+ upper NR 13 Mar (D&DS); BSL 27 May (WL), late. **Ring-necked Duck**: two BSL 27 May (WL, FN), late. **Greater Scaup**: 300 BSL 12 Apr (WL), good inland count. **Oldsquaw**: 14 CATT 26 Mar (BS), good inland count. **Black Scoter**: none. **Surf Scoter**: none. **Ruddy Duck**: arr Celoron CHAU 25 Mar (RS, TMa); max 31 Lewiston Res 19 Apr (DR).

Turkey Vulture: *intro*. **Osprey**: arr Allegheny Res 31 Mar (TB). **Bald Eagle**: *intro*. **N. Goshawk**: T Hamburg 14 Mar (FR!); T Yates 26 Mar (WD!, BP); INWR 21 Apr (RA!, FR); T Ward 21 Apr (EB), a previous nesting site. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: scarce. **Broad-winged Hawk**: scarce. **Red-tailed Hawk**: dark morph T Yates 9 Apr (MT!, BP, WD'A!). **Merlin**: T Hamburg 23 Apr (RA!); TNP 6,7 May (MD!, D&DS!); only reports. **Peregrine Falcon**: imm T Randolph 8 Apr (TB!); ad Times Beach, Buffalo 19 Apr (MM!); EA 29 Apr (LH!); TNP 14 May (D&DS!); BOSMC; a good showing. **Sandhill Crane**: T Yates 9 Apr (MT!, WD!, BP). **Upland Sandpiper**: arr two T Dayton 1 May (BS). **Whimbrel**: two BSL 27 May (WL, FN), rare. **Ruddy Turnstone**: one CATT 15 May (SE), county first. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: arr T Yates 15 May (RBr!, WW!); TWMA 30 May (WW); only reports. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: max 58 Conewango Valley WMA CATT 3 Apr. **Dunlin**: arr three T Yates 27 Apr (WD, BP); max 53 TWMA 20 May (WW, MD). **Ruff**: *intro*. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: three TNP, seven BSL, one TWMA 20 May, only reports. **Wilson's Phalarope**: T N Collins 14 May (RA); TWMA 28 and 30 May. **Little Gull**: max 12 BOSAC; last Dunkirk Harbor 2 May (BC). **Com. Black-headed Gull**: two ad NR mouth 20 Apr (GB!), latest in spring and first ever in Apr. **Bonaparte's Gull**: max 13800 NR mouth 20 Apr (GB), great numbers following dismal fall showing. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: ad Beaver I SP 13 Mar (D&DS!), "very dark-mantled, possibly a race other than *L. f. graelsii*". **Caspian Tern**: *intro*. **Forster's Tern**: Lewiston NIAG 10 Apr (MM!).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr T Wales 27 May (WD). **Snowy Owl**: T Porter 3 Apr (WD, BP), only report. **Long-eared Owl**: Four Mile Creek SP 5 Apr (BP); two Wilson-Tuscarora SP 14 Apr (BP); one CATT BOSMC, very rare inland. **Short-eared Owl**: T Somerset 29 Mar (PH); T Porter 10 Apr (WD, BP); only reports. **N. Saw-whet Owl**: two Wilson-Tuscarora SP 23 Apr (BP); one ALLE BOSMC, rare away from Lake Ontario plain. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: Lakeside Beach SP 21 Mar (WL), may have overwintered; arr three Point Gratiot CHAU, one T Somerset 30 Apr.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: only two reports. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: arr Goat I 15 May (WD, BP, DD); WG 16 May (PY); only reports. **Cliff Swallow**: max 100+ T Red House 20 May (TB). **Com. Raven**: three T

Farmersville 20, 23 May (BC!), a new location. **Carolina Wren**: down after two hard winters. **Winter Wren**: arr WG 3 Apr (PY). **Am. Pipit**: max 66 T Dayton CATT 3 Apr. **N. Shrike**: last T Somerset 6 Mar (WD, BP).

White-eyed Vireo: Goat I 2-8 May (BP, DR); T Newfane 11 May (GR); T Oakfield 11 May (GS). **Philadelphia Vireo**: arr EA 12 May (LH). **Red-eyed Vireo**: Golden Hill SP NIAG 26 Apr (WD!, BP), earliest ever. **Blue-winged Warbler**: arr T Amity, EA 27 Apr. **Golden-winged Warbler**: arr Goat Is. 6 May (BP). **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler**: "Brewster's" type T Alden 11 May (GR), T Hanover 20 May (RB), T Somerset 28 May (GR); "Lawrence's" type Allegany SP 7, 21 May (BS, TMA), back for a second year. **N. Parula**: Buffalo 29 Apr (MD!), earliest ever. **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: Fort Niagara SP NIAG 28 Apr (RA!), ties record early. **Cape May Warbler**: last INWR 20 May (WL, FN). **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: arr WG 3 Apr (PY). **Pine Warbler**: one-two T Farmersville 20-27 May (BC!), late, ?nesting. **Prairie Warbler**: one-two T Amity 5-27 May (VP); T Ellicottville 27 May (PY, BC); previous nesting areas. **Palm Warbler**: last WG 19 May (PY). **Cerulean Warbler**: arr EA 12 May (LH). **Prothonotary Warbler**: INWR 13-30 May, only report. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: arr T Carrollton 20 Apr (SE). **Connecticut Warbler**: one Wilson-Tuscarora SP NIAG 15 May (DS!); Allegany SP 22 May (TB!, SE, BS). **Com. Yellowthroat**: Buffalo 11 Apr (MD!), earliest ever. **Hooded Warbler**: arr Allegany SP 7 May (BS).

Am. Tree Sparrow: last T Cambria 11 May (DR). **Field Sparrow**: arr T Amity, T Alfred 6 Apr. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: arr three T Clarence 1 May (MG); four other reports 25-31 May. **Vesper Sparrow**: max five T Randolph CATT 3 Apr. **Fox Sparrow**: T Great Valley 1-20 Mar (BS!), arr in Feb. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: last TNP 22 May (MM). **Swamp Sparrow**: arr TWMA 1 Apr (MG, GR). **Lapland Longspur**: T Somerset 12 Mar (WD), only report. **Snow Bunting**: last and max 850 T Somerset 12 Mar (WD, BP). **E. Meadowlark**: arr T Otto, T Randolph 13 Mar. **W. Meadowlark**: T Ripley 26 Apr (RS). **Yellow-headed Blackbird**: male T Ward, ALLE (VP!). **Rusty Blackbird**: last four T Tonawanda 19 May (WW). **Orchard Oriole**: pair T Porter 14 May (BP, DD); T Sheridan 22 May (CB); T Somerset 28 May (DC). **Pine Grosbeak**: two T Aurora 3 Mar (RA), only report. **Red Crossbill**: two CATT BOSAC, only report. **Com. Redpoll**: strong return flight start 26 Mar; last 10 T Wales 25 Apr (OR). **Pine Siskin**: one report Mar, three reports Apr, four reports May; last Lancaster 30 May (MM). **Evening Grosbeak**: last ten T Darien 17 May (TH).

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REGION 2 — GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

March had its usual mix of conditions. Temperatures were just over 2° below normal with an average of 32°F. Precipitation was just over a half inch below normal at 1.7 inches. Snowfall was slightly below normal and birding was generally good throughout the month. Warm conditions from 21 to 24 Mar carried with them a flurry of arrivals and decent hawk flights. Waterfowl numbers, especially Tundra Swan and Hooded Merganser, were briefly good, but totals diminished quickly. Great Egret, Golden Eagle, and Semipalmated Plover set record early arrivals during the month. Carolina Wren was noteworthy for going unreported during the month. The harsh winter may have taken its toll on this southern species. A few misses included early shorebirds, early Yellow-rumped Warbler and the early sparrows. These kept the monthly species total slightly below the 10 year average. Rarities included Eurasian Wigeon, *Sandhill Crane*, and *Swainson's Hawk*.

April proved to be a most interesting month. The average temperature of 48°F was over 2° higher than usual, and precipitation at 4.08 inches was nearly 1.5 inches above normal. Some periods of significant snowfall slowed the migration. Fortunately, there were several days with southerly breezes in the middle and the end of the month. Totals for the month were generally good, with some early vireo and warbler arrivals and some interesting reports of uncommon species. The total species count for April was one of the highest ever. Water birds were generally poor, even with the arrival of some new species for the spring season. Of interest were reports of loons and grebes at inland locations, and it was a good spring for both of the dark-winged scoters. The hawk flights were very good on certain days. Shorebird totals remained low. Good numbers of Little Gull, Bonaparte's Gull and Common Tern were reported. Record early arrivals included Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue-winged, Golden-winged, Yellow, Magnolia, and Connecticut Warblers, American Redstart, Ovenbird, and Common Yellowthroat. The first *Loggerhead Shrike* in recent years was reported, and *Brewer's Blackbird* was also seen this spring. Other rarities for April included Eurasian Wigeon, Fish Crow, Common Raven, Worm-eating Warbler.

May was cooler than usual and just a bit drier. The 54.2°F average temperature for the month was just under 3° below normal. Precipitation was a mere 0.16 inch below normal at 2.56 inches. Weather conditions generally were not great for birding during the first three weeks of May, but the end of the month was much better with some very good birding days. Concentrations in general again seemed to be low. The migration was somewhat varied as is usually the case. There were some interesting

counts of scoters from Hamlin Beach, but water birds in general were scarce. The shorebirding was very poor throughout the period. Little Gull counts were good for spring, but most gulls and terns were poorly reported. There were a couple of Whip-poor-will reports but the species continued to be scarce. Negatives for the passerines were evident for a number of species. Flycatchers and thrushes continued to be of special concern. Philadelphia Vireo was poor and a number of warblers, including Tennessee and Blackpoll Warblers, were noted as scarce. Sparrows, especially Lincoln's, White-throated and White-crowned, also showed reduced totals, and Henslow's Sparrow was not reported. On the plus side were good reports of White-eyed Vireo. There were reports of moving Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak through the end of the month. May highlights included a *Mississippi Kite*, *King Rail*, Snowy Owl, Sedge Wren, three reports of Orange-crowned Warbler, two reports of Worm-eating Warbler, two Kentucky Warbler, *LeConte's Sparrow*, and Clay-colored Sparrow.

For the eighteenth consecutive year the hawk watch at Braddock Bay was conducted. A total of 47,633 raptors was counted from March through May, and an additional 594 birds were counted during parts of February and June. The principal observer was Jerry Liquori. Four species had new record high seasonal totals: 8430 Turkey Vulture, 132 Bald Eagle, 35 Merlin, and 22 Peregrine Falcon. Northern Harrier set a new single day high of 403.

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Abbreviations: BB - Braddock Bay; CHP - Cobb's Hill Park; HB - Hamlin Beach State Park; IB - Irondequoit Bay; ICW - Island Cottage Woods; PtB - Pt. Breeze; WL - West Lakeshore (Lake Ontario west of Rochester).

Spring reports: Red-throated Loon: 12 Long Pd 29 Apr (PW), unusual location; last HB 22 May, late. Horned Grebe: arr BB 24 Mar. Red-necked Grebe: arr Manitou 25 Mar; max 25 HB 9 Apr; last HB 12

May. **Double-crested Cormorant**: arr Manitou 25 Mar; max 440 HB 10 May. **Least Bittern**: arr Round Pd 21 May. **Great Egret**: arr Round Pd 24 Mar (JS), record early. **Cattle Egret**: one BB, Hamlin 27 Apr (JL, BM), scarce in recent Years. **Tundra Swan**: max 100 Byron 3 Apr. **Trumpeter Swan**: one of unknown origin Russell Station all Mar; one HB 9 May (WS), likely the same bird. **Snow Goose**: arr four Hamlin 18 Mar. **Brant**: one IB all Mar, wintering bird; one WL 12 May. **N. Shoveler**: arr Greece 8 Mar. **Eurasian Wigeon**: male BB 16 Mar (RO'H); one Parma 1 and 4 Apr (MD, BM), possibly the same bird. **Oldsquaw**: max 2000 HB 19 Apr (WS), good total for a poor year. **Black Scoter** arr five HB 28 Apr. **Surf Scoter**: arr seven HB 19 Apr. **White-winged Scoter**: max 10,800 HB 18 May (WS), a great total for May. **Bufflehead**: last eight WL 12 May. **Hooded Merganser**: max 150 Greece 26 Mar. **Com. Merganser**: last HB 25 May.

Turkey Vulture: max 891 BB 14 Apr. **Osprey**: max 52 BB 14 Apr. **Mississippi Kite**: one BB 31 May (JL). **Bald Eagle**: max 11 BB 24 Mar, 14 Apr. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: max 1531 BB 14 Apr. **Cooper's Hawk**: max 210 BB 14 Apr. **N. Goshawk**: max eight BB 14 Mar. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: arr BB 19 Mar; max 288 BB 24 Mar. **Broad-winged Hawk**: arr four BB 14 Apr; max 3737 BB 26 Apr. **Swainson's Hawk**: one Hamlin 12 Apr (BM, B&SS, CS), very early. **Red-tailed Hawk**: max 1409 BB 14 Apr. **Rough-legged Hawk**: max 81 BB 14 Apr; last WL 20 May. **Golden Eagle**: arr BB 8 Mar (JL), record early; max two BB on four dates. **Am. Kestrel**: max 161 BB 15 Apr. **Merlin**: arr BB 24 Mar, max five BB 29 Apr. **Peregrine Falcon**: arr Greece 24 Mar, max three BB 9 May. **King Rail**: one Round Pd 19 May (RS); one Hamlin 22 May (MD, DT, WD'A, BE). **Sandhill Crane**: six BB (JL) and Badgerow (formerly Dewey-Latta) P (BM) 30 Mar. **Semipalmated Plover**: arr Hamlin 27 Mar (TH), record early. **Upland Sandpiper**: arr HB 15 Apr. **Whimbrel**: last BB 27 May. **W. Sandpiper**: arr two Hamlin 25 May [details? - The Editor]. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: arr Hamlin 12 May. **Dunlin**: arr Bergen 1 May. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: arr BB 24 Apr. **Wilson's Phalarope**: arr Hamlin 18 May (RO'H), few reports in recent years. **Little Gull**: arr BB 7 Apr, max four HB 25 May (WS). **Bonaparte's Gull**: 3000 off Durand-Eastman P 23 Apr (R&SS, Peg Beckman). **Iceland Gull**: one HB 1 Mar (WS), one Manitou 14 May (RO'H). **Glaucous Gull**: singles Greece 29 Mar (KG), HB 21 Apr (WS), PtB 22 May, few reports. **Com. Tern**: 202 HB 19 Apr (WS, ER). **Forster's Tern**: arr WL 10 Apr.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr WL 21 May. **Snowy Owl**: one Brighton 22 May (mob), one Greece 27 May (PS), unusual in May. **Whip-poor-will**: arr ICW, Oatka Creek 25 Apr; two May reports; poor total for a once more common species.

Great-crested Flycatcher: arr Greece 23 Apr (KG&CD-G), record early. **Fish Crow**: one Riverside Cemetery 29 Apr (RS). **Com. Raven**: one Webster 21 Apr (D&DT) and 26 Apr (JC). **Winter Wren**: arr one Greece 27 Mar. **Sedge Wren**: one WL 30 May (MD), only report. **Ruby-crowned**

Kinglet: last Manitou 25 May (EB), late. **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** arr Webster 17 May. **Am. Pipit:** arr WL 20 Mar, last HB 25 May. **Bohemian Waxwing:** last Webster 13 Mar, only report. **Cedar Waxwing:** max 3000 PtB 30 May (WL). **Loggerhead Shrike:** one Hamlin 15 Apr (MD), only report.

White-eyed Vireo: singles CHP 30 Apr (AW), Manitou 7 May (SS), Mendon Ponds 14 May (CC, AC), Manitou 24 May (EB), rare but regular. **Yellow-throated Vireo:** arr BB 24 Apr (JL), record early. **Philadelphia Vireo:** arr Greece 24 May. **Blue-winged Warbler:** arr several sites 27 Apr, record early. **Golden-winged Warbler:** arr Webster 26 Apr (D&DT), record early. **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler:** "Lawrence's" type Genesee Country Nature Center 10 -23 May (SA), same location as last year; "Brewster's" type Greece 10 May (DS). **Orange-crowned Warbler:** singles Rochester 26 Apr (RS), Manitou 9 May (EB), one CHP 10, 16 May (AW), unusual in spring. **Prairie Warbler:** one Ontario County P 30 May (R & SS). **Cerulean Warbler:** arr Williamson 14 May. **Prothonotary Warbler:** arr ICW 25 May. **Worm-eating Warbler:** one near Maxwell Creek WAYN 30 Apr (DS, MT), one CHP 10-12 May, one Greece 22 May, rare but regular. **Kentucky Warbler:** one Letchworth SP 22 May (RS); one Greece 22 May (RS). **Connecticut Warbler:** arr Conesus L 27 Apr (MT) [details?-The Editor], record early, unusual location. **Hooded Warbler:** arr ICW 27 Apr.

Am. Tree Sparrow: last Hogan Pt 10 May (MD). **Clay-colored Sparrow:** one PtB 14-15 May (MD); one BB 24 May (JL). **Field Sparrow:** arr Greece 15 Apr. **LeConte's Sparrow:** one BB 3 May (JB, mob, ph). **Fox Sparrow:** arr BB 1 Apr; last Webster 4 May. **Lincoln's Sparrow:** last Manitou, ICW 27 May. **White-crowned Sparrow:** last ICW 25 May, late. **Lapland Longspur:** max 17 Hamlin 11 Mar; last Hamlin 20 Mar. **Snow Bunting:** max 4000 Elba 12 Mar, last two BB 2 Apr. **E. Meadowlark:** arr BB 22 Mar. **Rusty Blackbird:** arr two Greece 23 Mar. **Brewer's Blackbird:** two Hamlin 8 Apr (MD), one on 10 Apr (MD) and 11 Apr (BM). **Orchard Oriole:** arr BB 29 Apr, singles BB 1 May, WAYN 11 May, Manitou 22 May. **Pine Grosbeak:** last eight Greece 12 Mar. **Com. Redpoll:** last three PtB 19 Apr (WL).

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

STEVE KELLING

Winter weather continued in the Finger Lakes Region through March. Total precipitation in the Region exceeded the norm by 2.5 to 4 inches. The snow cover persisted over most of the Region, with only small pockets of bare ground opening by the end of the month. Average temperatures were between 3 and 4° below normal ranging from 28 to 32°F. A major nor'easter hit the Region from 2 through 4 Mar, dumping between one and two feet of snow. A frontal system from the east brought with it rain sleet and snow on 21 and 22 Mar. Warm weather finally returned to the Region in April. Average temperatures in the Region ranged from 44-48°F. which was 2 to 3° above normal. Mild weather and rain on 6 and 7 Apr hastened the snow melt throughout most of the area and brought some localized flooding. Cold weather returned to the Region in May. The first 3 weeks of May were consistently colder than normal with temperatures 2 to 3° below normal at 52°F. Precipitation during both April and May was about normal.

March's weather had a significant effect on bird movements through the Finger Lakes Region. The strong storm that came out of the southeast on 21-22 Mar, and the warmer weather that accompanied it, brought a massive influx of migrants into the area. These included a very early Broad-winged Hawk and Black-crowned Night Heron, the arrival of American Woodcock and Eastern Bluebird, and big flights of Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose, Killdeer, American Robin, and Red-winged Blackbird. Common Redpolls were prevalent throughout the Region in March. But during the last week of the month a massive influx of redpolls, as well as Evening Grosbeak and a few Pine Grosbeak, occurred. This influx was probably due to the large numbers of winter finches that had moved south into the mid Atlantic states during the winter. At some feeders as many as several hundred Common Redpoll appeared during the last week in March. The redpolls, which had been seen commonly in the Finger Lakes since mid October, were gone by the end of April, but Evening Grosbeak and Pine Grosbeak were both seen in May. Seven species of owls were seen during the month of March. Most notable were Snowy Owl in the Elmira and Geneva areas and Northern Saw-whet Owl in Lansing. Unfortunately, along with a live Long-eared Owl seen in the Canoga area, the remains of another were also found. It was speculated that the Long eared Owl may have been eaten by a Great-horned Owl which was seen in close proximity. March also brought an unusual White-breasted Nuthatch to a feeder in Seneca Falls. The bird seen from 12 to 20 Mar had a prominent long down curved bill with the mandibles crossing at the tip. The length of the bill was bout 2 times that of a normal bill.

Waterfowl numbers were high in the Finger Lakes during late March and early April. Numbers of Canada Goose and Brant were exceptionally high on the Northern portions of Seneca Lake. Waterfowl of interest were a Greater White-fronted Goose and Eurasian Wigeon seen along the north east shoreline of Cayuga Lake, a female Barrow's Goldeneye seen briefly at Dean's Cove on the northwest side of Cayuga Lake, a pair of Surf Scoters seen flying south down Cayuga Lake, and Oldsquaw which remained in the Sheldrake area through early May. But still the biggest news on the waterfowl front was the huge numbers of grebes, particularly Red-necked Grebe, that invaded the Region. This invasion was due to the freeze of the Great Lakes as mentioned in the Winter report. Counts of Red-necked Grebes were especially high, and birds in striking breeding plumage remained on Cayuga Lake until mid May. Horned Grebe also appeared in the Region in substantial numbers in early April.

The Mount Pleasant Hawk Watch did not produce exceptionally high numbers of birds this spring. Weather patterns seem to strongly influence the hawk flight over the watch. Of particular interest was the number of Golden Eagles seen in late March and early April at the watch. At least eight Golden Eagle flew over Mount Pleasant. Another bird seen migrating over Mount Pleasant was Common Loon. Peak flights occurred during the first half of April. Numbers of Common Loon flying past the watch appeared highest between 11 AM and 1 PM. Considering flight speed, direction of travel, and evidence from the fall Loon watch at Taughannock State Park these birds may have left from the Chesapeake Bay at daybreak and flew nonstop to Cayuga Lake. This is the reverse of what the Common Loon apparently does in the fall.

Late April and early May brought in the majority of the migrating passerines. It was noted by several observers that early in the season many warblers as well as kinglets, sparrows, and nuthatches were being found in conifers. Speculation was that a particular insect hatch in conifer trees and shrubs afforded these birds food. Possibly due to the abnormally cool temperatures, insect hatches in other habitats did not occur as early thus concentrating the passerines. Several locations, where conifers were common became migrant hot spots. In particular Spruce Lane in Ithaca, the Ithaca Cemetery and Cornell Plantations, particularly around Comstock Knoll provided numerous warbler species. For example, a total of 15 warbler species were seen at and around Comstock Knoll during late April and early May. The North American Migration Count in TOMP provided some interesting results. Held on 14 May, the height of the passerine migration, it was interesting to note the numbers of certain species. Red-winged Blackbird, American Robin, and Yellow Warbler were the most commonly counted passerines. Interestingly, only a single Carolina Wren was counted,

evidence of the harsh winter. Late May brought in large concentrations of resident breeders. Of interest was the tremendous influx of Great Crested Flycatcher, Northern Oriole and Scarlet Tanager in the Montour Falls area on 28 May. As many as 100 Northern Oriole were counted along a 3 mile stretch of abandoned railway. Late May also produced an influx of migrating shorebirds. Over 70 Least Sandpipers spent several days at a pond in Hartford. Whimbrel were seen in numerous locations. Myers Point continued to produce a good variety of shorebirds including a White-rumped Sandpiper.

A total of 235 species of birds was seen in the Region. Birds of special interest included, Red-throated Loon, Red-necked Grebe, *American White Pelican*, Greater White-fronted Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, Barrow's Goldeneye, Golden Eagle, Iceland Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Glaucous Gull, Snowy Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Fish Crow, Northern Shrike, *Loggerhead Shrike*, Prothonotary Warbler, Henslow's Sparrow, and *Yellow-headed Blackbird*.

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Abbreviations: ARd - Armitage Road, Savannah; BCF - Boyer Creek Farm, Caroline; CH - Connecticut Hill; CL - Cayuga Lake; HH - Hog Hole, Ithaca; KHF - Kestrel Haven Farm, Mecklenberg; MNWR - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Monkey Run - Fall Creek near Varna, TOMP; MPt - Myers Point, Lansing; MtP - Mount Pleasant, Ithaca; NAMC - North American Migration Count, TOMP, May 14. NSL - North Seneca Lake, including Sampson SP and the Geneva area; NCL - North Cayuga Lake, including Village of Cayuga on the east to Canoga Lake shore on the west; QCM - Queen Catherine Marsh, Montour Falls; StP - Stewart Park, Ithaca; WG - Watkins Glen.

Spring reports: **Com. Loon:** 40 MtP 9 Apr, max 142 (in one hour!) MtP 19 Apr, many in Alt Cayuga and Seneca L through early May. **Red-throated Loon:** singles MPt 9 Apr, Sheldrake 17 Apr, NSL 21 Apr. **Horned Grebe:** one Ithaca Yacht Club 8 Mar, max 50 Sheldrake 10 Apr, last CL 24 Apr. **Red-necked Grebe:** three MPt 6 Mar, max 130 SL 17 Mar, 73 Sheldrake 10 Apr, last MPt 12 May. **Am. White Pelican:** one MNWR 23 Apr, one Sheldrake 29 May. **Double-crested Cormorant:** arr StP 1 Apr, one QCM 16 Apr, numerous NCL through May. **Am. Bittern:** four reports in Apr. **Great Blue Heron:** six MtP 23 Mar, 12 MNWR 6 May, **Great Egret:** singles MNWR 15 Apr, QCM 23 Apr, Penn Yan 24 Apr, Lansing 25 Apr. **Green Heron:** max six NAMC. **Black-crowned Night-**

Heron: singles KHF 23 Mar, Sapsucker Woods 30 May. **Tundra Swan:** several small flocks SL 12- 25 Mar, 17 Elmira 15 Apr. **Mute Swan:** one QCM entire period, one MNWR 9 Apr. **Greater White-fronted Goose:** one Union Springs 19 Mar. **Snow Goose:** 100 (75 blue morph) Union Springs, 20 Mar; max 1000 MNWR 17 Apr. **Brant:** Long Pt SP 9 Apr, max 500 Geneva 16 May, 120 Sheldrake 16 May. **Canada Goose:** major flight WG 13 Mar, 25000 NSL 14 Mar, 500 MtP 23 Mar. **Wood Duck:** max 100 QCM 24 Mar, 16 MPt 2 Apr, nine NAMC. **Green-winged Teal:** max 12 Big Flats 5 Apr, 14 Dryden Apr 16, 16 QCM 20 Apr, singles MNWR through May. **Am. Black Duck:** max 140 NCL 2 Apr. **Mallard:** max 89 NAMC. **N. Pintail:** max nine NCL 2 Apr, six ARd 24 Apr. **Blue-winged Teal:** many StP 8 Apr, one HH 26 May. **N. Shoveler:** 15 Varick 25 Mar, 12 MNWR 24 Apr. **Gadwall:** 30 Union Springs 20 Mar, max 39 NCL 2 Apr, 5 QCM 10 Apr. **Eurasian Wigeon:** one Aurora Bay 26 Mar, one NCL 2 Apr. **Am. Wigeon:** max 28 NCL 2 Apr, 20 QCM 10 Apr, 22 Union Springs 24 Apr. **Canvasback:** two WG 1 Mar, 300 NSL 21 Mar, 2500 NCL 2 Apr, 1000 MNWR 9 Apr, 10 MNWR through May. **Redhead:** 131 WG 2 Mar, 2500 NSL 21 Mar, 1850 NCL 2 Apr. **Ring-necked Duck:** ten NCL 20 Mar, 1150 NCL 2 Apr, 200 MNWR 9 Apr, 18 QCM 11 Apr. **Greater Scaup:** 40 NCL 20 Mar, 53 NCL 2 Apr. **Lesser Scaup:** two Aurora Bay 12 Mar, 12 Frontenac P 2 Apr. **Oldsquaw:** three Elmira 6 Apr, nine Sheldrake 9 Apr, four NSL 10 Apr, four Sheldrake 6 May. **Surf Scoter:** two Ithaca Yacht Club 10 Apr. **Com. Goldeneye:** max 50 Aurora Bay 12 Mar, 90 NCL 2 Apr. **Barrow's Goldeneye:** female Dean's Cove 9 Apr (NB). **Bufflehead:** 56 Frontenac 2 Apr, 500 NSL 12 Apr. **Hooded Merganser :** five Frontenac 24 Mar, 14 Sullivanville 7 Apr. **Com. Merganser:** 15 NCL Mar 24, 4 MPt 25 Mar, 8 WG 29 Mar 4 CL 16 Apr. **Red-breasted Merganser:** one WG 2 Mar, two MPt 25 Mar, 25 CL 1 May. **Ruddy Duck:** two MNWR 2 Apr, 14 MNWR 9 Apr, seven StP 14 Apr, 28 MNWR 16 Apr.

Turkey Vulture: 29 Chemung Valley 15 Mar, 35 CL 1 Apr, 5 NAMC. **Osprey:** max two Elmira 13 Apr, three MtP 26 Apr. **N. Harrier:** one Lansing 18 Mar, four Canoga 19 Mar, two MPt 23 Mar. **Bald Eagle:** singles Cayuga 12 Mar, Elmira 14 Mar; two MtP 23 Mar, two nesting MNWR 13 May. **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** max three MtP 26 Apr, three NAMC. **N. Goshawk:** singles MtP 6 Mar, CH 17 Mar; two Sapsucker Woods Ithaca 11 Apr. **Red-shouldered Hawk:** one KHF 21 Mar, three MtP 23 Mar, one Elmira 20 Apr, one CH 20 May. **Broad-winged Hawk:** one KHF 22 Mar, very early [details? - *The Editor*]; max seven Elmira 26 Apr, 14 MtP 26 Apr. **Red-tailed Hawk:** Krider's type MtP 14 Apr [details? - *The Editor*], 16 NAMC. **Rough-legged Hawk:** three MtP 22 Mar, one MtP 9 Apr. **Golden Eagle:** one MtP 23 Mar, two MtP 26 Mar and 2 Apr; two KHF 15 Apr; another by Wells. **Merlin:** singles Elmira 14 Mar, MtP 16 Apr. **Peregrine Falcon:** singles KHF 15 Apr, Sheldrake 24

Apr. Ring-necked Pheasant: three Canoga 12 Mar, one NAMC. **Ruffed Grouse:** six NAMC. **Wild Turkey:** max 50 Caroline 1 Apr; two NAMC. **Virginia Rail:** arr Big Flats 19 Mar, record early, next QCM 11 Apr; max two MNWR 21 May. **Sora:** one NAMC. **Com. Moorhen:** singles MNWR 11 May, Corning Pd 15 May, BCF 21 May. **Am. Coot:** max 75 MPt 2 Apr; one NAMC. **Black-bellied Plover:** one MNWR 1 May, early. **Semipalmated Plover:** max five MNWR 31 May. **Killdeer:** max 100+ MtP 23 Mar; 18 NAMC. **Greater Yellowlegs:** max four MNWR 1 May; one NAMC. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr and max eight Montezuma 24 Apr, six ARd 1 May. **Solitary Sandpiper:** max 21 QCM 4 May, 7 Horseheads 13 May, 12 Harford 19 May; last QCM 22 May. **Spotted Sandpiper:** max 10 HH 29 Apr, six there 26 May. **Upland Sandpiper:** two Dryden 20-23 Apr, two Aurora 27 Apr, two Enfield 14 May, seven Horseheads 15 May. **Whimbrel:** singles Elmira 15 May, Geneva 26 May; five MPt 27 May. **Sanderling:** one Phelps 15 May. **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** last MNWR 27 May. **Least Sandpiper:** max 73 Harford 19 May, last three HH 26 May. **White-rumped Sandpiper:** one MPt 25 May. **Pectoral Sandpiper:** max and last four Aurora 25 May. **Dunlin:** max three MNWR 22 May. **Short-billed Dowitcher:** seven Aurora 23 May. **Com. Snipe:** max two MNWR 9 Apr, one NAMC. **Am. Woodcock:** max four Sugar Hill early Apr. **Bonaparte's Gull:** one KHF 6 Mar, very early; one MPt 25 Mar, 150 CL 16 Apr, 52 SL 21 Apr, one MPt 12 May. **Ring-billed Gull:** max 100 WG 14 May, 185 NAMC. **Herring Gull:** max 10 HH 26 May. **Iceland Gull:** one Ulysses 1 Mar. **Lesser Black-backed Gull:** single MPt 12 Mar, 30 Apr; one Elmira 4 Apr. **Glaucous Gull:** one Ulysses 1-25 Mar. **Great Black-backed Gull:** 20 Ulysses 1 Mar, 20 Chemung Landfill 12 Mar, 100 NSL 13 Mar, three HH 26 May. **Caspian Tern:** arr NCL 9 Apr, one Dryden L 17 Apr, four MNWR 7 May. **Com. Tern:** arr Dryden Lake 1 May, three Elmira 16 May, eight MPt 18 May. **Black Tern:** two MNWR 1 May, 17 there 13 May; two Aurora 23 May.

Black-billed Cuckoo: two reports. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** arr Caroline 14 May, two Lansing 30 May. **E. Screech-Owl:** singles Union Springs 12 Mar, Horseheads 14 Mar. **Great Horned Owl:** three singles. **Snowy Owl:** one Horseheads 2 Mar, one Elmira 3-7 Mar, three NSL 6 Mar. **Barred Owl:** one Sapsucker Woods 12 Mar, one Caroline 27 Apr, 2 Shindagin Hollow 14 May. **Long-eared Owl:** 1 Canoga 12 Mar, 1 Southport 28 Mar. **Short-eared Owl:** five Scipioville, 12 Mar, one Seneca Airport 20 Mar. **N. Saw-whet Owl:** 1 or 2 Lansing 12 Mar-6 Apr. **Com. Nighthawk:** one Elmira 3 May, very early; max four Lansing 29 May. **Chimney Swift:** max 30 CL 1 May, seven NAMC. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** max seven NAMC. **Belted Kingfisher:** three NAMC. **Red-headed Woodpecker:** three Elmira early May, singles Fayette and Benton 15 May. **Red-bellied Woodpecker:** one MPt 25 Mar; seven NAMC. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** 15 NAMC. **Downy Woodpecker:** 20

NAMC. Hairy Woodpecker: seven NAMC. **N. Flicker:** 17 NAMC. **Pileated Woodpecker:** four NAMC.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: one report. **E. Wood-Pewee:** arrived in large numbers later than usual. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** singles KHF 22 May, Caroline 29 May. **Acadian Flycatcher:** singles KHF 10 May, Shindagin Hollow 12 May, two CH 20 May. **Least Flycatcher:** max 29 NAMC. **E. Phoebe:** max 32 NAMC. **E. Kingbird:** 1 Ellis Hollow 26 Apr, early; 11 NAMC. **Horned Lark:** max 37 WG 18 Mar, 20 MPt 23 Mar, 50 Veteran 2 Apr. **Purple Martin:** max 10 Sheldrake 24 Apr. **Tree Swallow:** max 2-3000 CL 16 Apr; 96 NAMC. **N. Rough-winged Swallow:** max 14 NAMC. **Bank Swallow:** max 100 CL 1 May, 25 Caroline 14 May. **Cliff Swallow:** max 50 Elmira 13 May. **Barn Swallow:** max 150 CL 1 May, 73 NAMC. **Blue Jay:** 57 NAMC. **Am. Crow:** 57 NAMC. **Fish Crow:** 15-20 Ithaca May, more than usual. **Com. Raven:** two Ithaca 20 Mar, two Elmira 21 Mar, two Hammond Hill 21 Mar, one CH 31 Mar. **Black-capped Chickadee:** 90 NAMC. **Tufted Titmouse:** 11 NAMC. **Red-breasted Nuthatch:** max 16 NAMC. **White-breasted Nuthatch:** 14 NAMC. **Brown Creeper:** nine NAMC. **Carolina Wren:** singles HH 29 Apr, NAMC. **House Wren:** one Union Springs 9 Apr, early; 33 NAMC. **Winter Wren:** max five NAMC. **Marsh Wren:** max ten MNWR 28 May. **Golden-crowned Kinglet:** max 10 Sheldrake 9 Apr, four Hammond Hill 14 May, one CH 20 May. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr Sheldrake 9 Apr, 8 NAMC, 1 CH 20 May. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** max eight StP 29 Apr, 11 NAMC. **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** one CH 14 May. **Swainson's Thrush:** two singles only. **Hermit Thrush:** two Shindagin Hollow 14 May, two BCF 22 May. **Wood Thrush:** arr Ithaca, Geneva 22 Apr; 53 NAMC. **Am. Robin:** max 100+ MtP 23 Mar, 153 NAMC. **Gray Catbird:** max 63 NAMC; one banded 7 years ago KHF 29 May. **N. Mockingbird:** five NAMC. **Brown Thrasher:** three NAMC, three Willard 22 May. **Am. Pipit:** one MPt 8 Mar, 30 Southport 10 Apr, 200 Kings Ferry 22 Apr, three Geneva 16 May. **N. Shrike:** singles Freeville 21 Apr, BCF 1 Mar- 1 Apr. **Loggerhead Shrike:** one MNWR 16-23 Apr. **European Starling:** 68 NAMC.

Solitary Vireo: 21 NAMC. **Yellow-throated Vireo:** arr KHF 27 Apr, record early; 10 NAMC. **Warbling Vireo:** arr Ithaca 26 Apr, record early; 14 NAMC. **Philadelphia Vireo:** one MNWR 11 May, several Elmira 14 May, one BCF 22 May. **Red-eyed Vireo:** arr Monkey Run 29 Apr, early; eight NAMC. **Blue-winged Warbler:** arr Elmira 29 Apr; 20 NAMC. **Golden-winged Warbler:** singles QCM 1 May, Cornell Plantations Knoll 2 May, QCM 20 May; max three Elmira 14 May. **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler:** three "Brewster's" type Elmira early May, two CH 20 May; "Lawrence's" type Monkey Run 20 Apr, Ellis Hollow 12 May. **Tennessee Warbler:** arr Ithaca 30 Apr, early; one Cornell Plantations 2 May, four Ithaca Cemetery 19 May, one BCF 22 May. **Orange-crowned**

Warbler: one Sheldrake 9 Apr, early; four KHF 19 Apr; one Cornell Plantations 3 May. **Nashville Warbler:** max ten Cornell Plantations 2 May, 12 NAMC. **N. Parula:** four reports, max two. **Yellow Warbler:** 144 NAMC. **Chestnut-sided Warbler:** 1 KHF 26 Apr, record early; 31 NAMC. **Magnolia Warbler:** 19 NAMC. **Cape May Warbler:** 21 Ithaca Cemetery 18 May. **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** 16 NAMC. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** arr Aurora 12 Apr, 37 NAMC. **Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr Buttermilk Falls SP 21 Apr, early; 21 NAMC. **Blackburnian Warbler:** six NAMC. **Prairie Warbler:** singles Elmira 30 Apr, Cornell Plantations 2 May. **Palm Warbler:** arr Elmira 16 Apr, record early; max seven QCM 1 May. **Bay-Breasted Warbler:** arr Ithaca 27 Apr, record early; two NAMC. **Blackpoll Warbler:** arr Elmira 1 May, record early; singles only. **Cerulean Warbler:** arr Elmira 1 May; max four NAMC, 3 MNWR 28 May. **Black-and-white Warbler:** seven NAMC. **Am. Redstart:** 30 NAMC. **Prothonotary Warbler:** one MNWR 10 May, pair ARd 31 May. **Worm-eating Warbler:** three Elmira 14 May, one West Danby 31 May. **Ovenbird:** arr Buttermilk Falls SP 21 Apr, record early; 60 NAMC. **N. Waterthrush:** 1 Ithaca 16 Apr, record early; 15 NAMC. **Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr Ithaca 16 Apr, four NAMC. **Mourning Warbler:** arr MNWR 6 May, record early; singles only. **Com. Yellowthroat:** 106 NAMC. **Hooded Warbler:** arr Elmira 1 May, one WG 13 May, two Hammond Hill 22 May, two BCF 22 May. **Wilson's Warbler:** singles only, last 18 May. **Canada Warbler:** eight NAMC.

Scarlet Tanager: arr Ithaca 24 Apr, record early; nine NAMC. **N. Cardinal:** 30 NAMC. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr KHF 27 Apr, 42 NAMC. **Indigo Bunting:** few Elmira 1 May, two NAMC. **Rufous-sided Towhee:** 16 NAMC. **Am. Tree Sparrow:** last KHF 18 Apr. **Chipping Sparrow:** 46 NAMC. **Field Sparrow:** 20 NAMC. **Vesper Sparrow:** arr Ithaca 10 Apr, two MtP 26 Apr, two Ithaca 17 May. **Savannah Sparrow:** max 10 MtP 26 Apr, 17 NAMC. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** arr Aurora 25 Apr, singles Horseheads 7 May, HH 8 May, two Harford 31 May. **Henslow's Sparrow:** 1 HH 29 Apr, three Dryden 22 May. **Fox Sparrow:** three Horseheads 24 Mar, six Ithaca 8 Apr, 13 KHF 20 Apr, one Sapsucker Woods 1 May. **Song Sparrow:** arr BCF 4 Apr, 76 NAMC. **Lincoln's Sparrow:** singles Monkey Run 29 Apr, KHF 2 May, Elmira 16 May, BCF 22 May; two NAMC. **Swamp Sparrow:** arr Elmira 8 Apr, 15 NAMC. **White-throated Sparrow:** arr Ithaca 18 Apr, 7 NAMC. **White-crowned Sparrow:** 18 NAMC, four BCF 22 May. **Dark-eyed Junco:** 70-90 Hammond Hill 6-12 Apr, 17 NAMC. **Lapland Longspur:** one MtP 9 Apr. **Bobolink:** arr Aurora 27 Apr, record early; 69 NAMC. **Red-winged Blackbird:** 1000+ MtP 23 Mar, 179 NAMC. **E. Meadowlark:** arr Elmira 13 Mar, one QCM 24 Mar; 12 NAMC. **Yellow-headed Blackbird:** one Varick 22-23 Apr. **Rusty Blackbird:** arr Lansing 26 Mar, max 11 Elmira 5 Apr, last Sapsucker Woods 7 May. **Com. Grackle:** 86 NAMC. **Brown-**

headed Cowbird: 75 NAMC. **Orchard Oriole:** two HH 28 Apr, one NCL 11 May. **N. Oriole:** max 60 NAMC, 100 Montour Falls 28 May. **Pine Grosbeak:** six Dryden 16 Mar, four Lansing 3 May. **Purple Finch:** Sapsucker Woods 7 Apr, 12 NAMC. **House Finch:** 26 NAMC. **Com. Redpoll:** 300-450 Hammond Hill 22-29 Mar, 50 Lansing 31 Mar, 40 BCF 4 Apr, 40 Dryden 23 Apr. **Pine Siskin:** one KHF 18 Mar, one WG 30 Apr, six NAMC, two BCF 22 May. **Am. Goldfinch:** 127 NAMC. **Evening Grosbeak:** 50 BCF 4 Apr, 18 Monkey Run, 29 Apr, large flights of 40-50 Elmira, several hundred CL early May, 25 CH 20 May. **House Sparrow:** 26 NAMC.

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

MARY DOBINSKY

March weather seemed just a continuation of the brutal winter. Snow dominated the landscape even when it wasn't falling, and Binghamton had 28 inches of snow during the month. High snowbanks were everywhere and melted very slowly. Harold Hollis, National Weather Service observer, measured a 22 inch snow cover at Cooperstown on 20 Mar, the first day of Spring! Furthermore, March was cold. The average daily temperature of 29.4°F was three degrees colder than normal. The Vernal Equinox, however, ushered in milder temperatures that reached 60°F on 23 Mar. Spring was possible! April was about 3° warmer than usual with a record high of 83°F on 15 Apr. May temperatures, however, averaged 2° colder than normal. Both March and April had above average rainfall. March rains totaled 5.74 inches, almost three inches over the norm. April rainfall was an inch above normal while May precipitation was an inch under average. Rivers were at least partly open from the beginning of the period. By late March water levels rose to flood stage and fields became lakes. The high water continued through April.

The migration got off to a very late start. Red-winged Blackbird, our first heralds of spring, did not arrive in numbers until about 20 Mar, a good two weeks late. Water birds, including unusual Red-throated Loon and Red-necked Grebe, were among the earliest migrants. Flooded corn fields attracted better than average numbers for many of the 18 duck species seen. Shallower flooded areas were good early feeding spots for some of the 10 shorebird species reported. A *Short-billed Dowitcher*, not seen for at least 16 years, was a special find. The usual pair of Upland Sandpiper was missing from its BROO nesting area for the first spring since 1987. The two were usually the only Regional sighting, so

the report of three in CORT was a compensation. Raptor migration was average for spring. Numbers were small, but all species were seen except Northern Goshawk and Golden Eagle.

Migration of songbirds was, as usual, difficult to assess. There was no sizable fallout and very few transients were reported. Weather patterns were not particularly favorable. We experienced many May days with strong northwest winds. American Pipit was a surprising candidate for top migrant of the season. Spring arrival dates suggest that the migration was on time or early. For many species, however, movement stalled. Most of the flycatchers were at least a week behind the vanguard of their species. It took Wood Thrush and Red-eyed Vireo two weeks to catch up. Once here, how did bird populations look? Observers' reports were more negative than positive for Eastern Kingbird, Bank and Barn Swallows, Hermit Thrush, and most of the warblers and birds of the grassland. For positive comment Chris Vredenburg, at his Franklin Mt. home, saw "more Nashville Warblers and Am. Redstart than ever before, a lot of Blackburnian Warblers and good counts of Wood Thrush and Veery." Bob Miller, coordinator of the 26th annual DOAS Big Day May Count, 21 May, reported a record of six Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.

Winter finches, which had gone farther south to escape our snow and cold, crossed paths with our spring migrants as all moved north. Feeder reports described such contrasts as "a very late Snow Bunting in my feeder 10 May and Indigo Bunting ground feeding below" (MD); "Evening Grosbeak and Rose-breasted Grosbeak feeding together in my feeder early May" (CV).

Canada Goose as a nest parasites? Jeannette Baldwin described the situation: Five years ago her brother, Jud Spencer bought a pair of Black Swans for his TIOL lake. Several Canada Geese had already moved in there. "The swans nested successfully a few years. However, this spring when they left their nest with young, they had three Canada goslings instead of any cygnets. Evidently, because the Canada Goose made her nest close to the swans' nest, the goose laid some some eggs in the swans' nest. Then the goose eggs hatched first. (40 days incubation for swans and 28-30 days for geese.) So the swan left the nest with three goslings and the Canada Goose with four at the same time."

A Sharp-shinned Hawk landed on the deck of Susan Moran's Afton home moments after a Mourning Dove had crashed into the glass doors. She watched as the hawk struggled to lift its prey and finally fly off with its meal.

Spring rarities included Red-throated Loon, *Short-billed Dowitcher*, *Great Black-backed Gull*, Cerulean and Kentucky Warblers and Common and *Hoary Redpoll*. Misses included American Bittern, Gadwall, Canvasback, Northern Goshawk, Virginia Rail, Olive-sided, Yellow-bellied and Acadian Flycatchers, Marsh Wren, Henslow's

Sparrow and Wilson's Warbler. The total of 204 species plus two hybrids was a record high for years dating back to 1979. The previous high of 193 was set last spring. Some figures from Regional North American Migration Count on 14 May are included in this report.

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Abbreviations: ChB - Chenango Bridge; ChF - Chenango Forks; DOASMC - Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society May Count, 21 May; FHNC - Finch Hollow Nature Center; NAMC - North American Migration Count total, 14 May; OPM - Oneonta, Portlandville, Milford; UL - Upper Lisle, BROO; WNC - Waterman Nature Center.

Spring reports: **Red-throated Loon:** Endwell 30 Mar (SK), 31 Mar (BNC), often missed. **Com. Loon:** arr BROO 6 Apr, "watched it struggle to swallow six inch yellow perch" (JH); max four 7 May (BNC), two Otsego L through May. **Pied-billed Grebe:** arr 26 Mar Oneonta; max three Endwell 30 Mar; two singles BROO Apr, one May, good count. **Horned Grebe:** singles Endwell 12 Mar; Otsego L 1 Apr; Whitney Pt Res 4 Apr, low count. **Red-necked Grebe:** Endwell 11 Mar (SK); two there 12 and 17 Mar (WW); singles Goodyear L 1 Apr, Hillcrest BROO 14 Apr (MDv) high count. **Double-crested Cormorant:** eight Apr reports, max 12 BROO, OTSE; one CHEN 11 May, continued expansion. **Mute Swan:** OTSE 19 May through period. **Great Blue Heron:** rookery Susquehanna R, Owego, for second year, max 37 y; new site Holly Hill Road Vestal, 12 birds, reported to WNC. **Green Heron:** max three BROO 21 May; six others reported. **Snow Goose:** only one flock CHEN. **Canada Goose:** first migrating flocks 9 Mar; nesting pair numbers keep increasing; first five goslings 13 May; *intro*. **Wood Duck:** max 12 two BROO reports Apr; hen with y Otego 22 May. **Green-winged Teal:** seven reports 20 Mar to 14 May, max six. **Am. Black Duck:** max 20 Endwell 21 Mar. **N. Pintail:** seven reports, max five, high count. **Blue-winged Teal:** four reports 9-27 Apr Max two, scarce. **N. Shoveler:** two Endwell 29-30 Mar; UL 9, 11, and 14 Apr, often missed. **Am. Wigeon:** eight reports, max five, 17 Mar-11 Apr, good numbers. **Redhead:** ChF 1 Apr (T&NT) often missed. **Ring-necked Duck:** max 40 ChF 1 Apr; last seven OTSE 14 May. **Lesser Scaup:** record max 60, flooded fields Afton 11 Apr (SM). **Scaup, sp.:** ChB 23 Mar (T&NT). **Oldsquaw:** max four Apalachin 14 Apr; one CHEN 17 Apr. **Com Goldeneye:** max 12 Endwell 20 Mar; last two Boland Pd 2 Apr. **Bufflehead:** max 15 20 ChF 1 Apr; 12 reports to

23 Apr, good numbers. **Hooded Merganser**: max 14 OTSE 14 May; average number of March/April reports but fewer birds. **Com. Merganser**: max 18 Cannonsville Res 5 Apr. **Red-breasted Merganser**: Dorchester P BROO 7 Apr, only report.

Turkey Vulture: 75-100 birds soaring regularly near Walton (*Oneonta Daily Star*, 14 May), area suitable for nesting. **Osprey**: max seven OPM 24 Apr. **Bald Eagle**: max four DOASMC. **N. Harrier**: max four CORT 3 Apr. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: *intro*. **Cooper's Hawk**: nesting pair Windsor 30 May (JS); good counts through period. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: arr Oneonta 27 Apr; CHEN 28 Apr; UL 14 May. **Broad-winged Hawk**: arr T Maine 31 Mar. **Rough-legged Hawk**: max four CORT 21 Mar; last two OTSE 14 APR. **Am Kestrel**: max six T Lisle 4 Apr (MP); pair in nest atop Binghamton Telephone Co; Building hatched four eggs late May (SR). **Merlin**: Burlington Flats OTSE 17 Apr (NW), first spring in six years. **Peregrine Falcon**: Franklin Mt 18 May (CV), rare in spring. **Ring-necked Pheasant**: only three singles. **Ruffed Grouse**: max five Morris 2 May. **Wild Turkey**: max 125 at 10 BROO/CHEN sites 14 Mar (T&NT); hen accidentally flushed from nest with 18 eggs OTSE 20 May. **N. Bobwhite**: OPM 5 May; Binghamton 23-29 May. **Com. Moorhen**: Paukett Wetland CHEN 14 May (JH), often missed. **Killdeer**: max 40 OPM 26 Mar. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: max five OTSE 14 May, not seen every spring. **Solitary Sandpiper**: max 12 OTSE 14 May. **Spotted Sandpiper**: max four OTSE 14 May. **Upland Sandpiper**: *intro*. **Least Sandpiper**: max five DOASMC. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: one off Route 12A at Chenango Bridge 4 Apr (T&NT). **Com. Snipe**: three April reports, max two, scarce. **Am. Woodcock**: max 12 WNC 25 Apr. **Bonaparte's Gull**: arr six CHEN 8 Mar (DW); max 38 CORT 17 Apr, high count. **Ring-billed Gull**: 75 nesting CORT County Landfill May (BT). **Great Black-backed Gull**: two CORT early Mar; one on ice eating large fish Boland P BROO 1 Apr (JH), probably first Regional reports for spring.

E. Screech-Owl: only report Binghamton 4 May. **Great Horned Owl**: four widespread reports, max two. **Barred Owl**: three BROO sites two CHEN, one TIOG and OTSE, high count. **Com Nighthawk**: Binghamton after 17 May; Vestal 23 May, scarce. **Chimney Swift**: max 10 T Union 28 May; eight OTSE 14 May, scarce. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: IBM Dog Runs BROO 14 May (I&RT), first in three springs. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: max 11 OTSE 14 May. **Pileated Woodpecker**: several pairs widespread.

E. Wood-Pewee: only one prior to the six on DOASMC, late. **Alder Flycatcher**: one DOASMC, next report 28 May. **E. Phoebe**: "fewer nesting this year" (NW). **Great Crested Flycatcher**: several BROO, TIOG after mid May (JS). **Horned Lark**: six widespread Mar reports max 50. **Purple Martin**: only TIOG, scarce. **Tree Swallow**: max 50 BROO 30 Mar; eggs starting to hatch mid May CORT (BT); "occupying all our bluebird

and wren houses 29 May" (NW). **N. Rough-winged Swallow**: max eight OPM 13 May and second site 20 May. **Cliff Swallow**: max 25 on 14 May, only OTSE reports. **Fish Crow**: max six Spencer's L May (C&JB); Binghamton 17 Apr and 6 May (JH); chasing Red-tailed Hawk OTSE 9 May (CV), increasing. **Carolina Wren**: three BROO, one TIOG report/month, poor winter survival. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: *intro*. **E. Bluebird**: "lost three nests with y shortly after mid May probably due to weather" CORT (BT). **Swainson's Thrush**: Franklin Mt 10, 11, 16 May, only report. **Brown Thrasher**: max five OTSE 14 May. **Am. Pipit**: arr six Binghamton 25 Mar; 25 CORT 17 Apr; 35+ Morris 2 May; max 40 T Lisle 10 May; last eight Owego 14 May, best count in 11 springs. **Cedar Waxwing**: scarce. **N. Shrike**: Johnson City feeder 18 Mar (MP), first since 3 Jan. **Shrike**, sp.: OTSE 14 May.

Solitary Vireo: max eight OPM 30 Apr. **Warbling Vireo**: max 14 OTSE 14 May. **Philadelphia Vireo**: one DOASMC, often missed. **Blue-winged Warbler**: max four BROO 23 May (MP), fewer reports. **Golden-winged Warbler**: two singles May, scarce. **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler**: "Brewster's" type: only one DOASMC; "Lawrence's" type sang Golden-winged song T Union 9 May (MP). **Tennessee Warbler**: singles two OTSE sites 14, 15 May, scarce. **N. Parula**: only one DOASMC. **Yellow Warbler**: max 73 OTSE 14 May. **Magnolia Warbler**: late arrival, scarce. **Cape May Warbler**: CHEN 7 May (DW), only report. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: max 10 OTSE 14 May; several BROO, TIOG 8 May (JS), good. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: arr BROO, OTSE 15 Apr, low counts. **Black-throated Green Warbler**: 12 OTSE and "numerous" Greenwood P BROO 14 May; otherwise scarce. **Prairie Warbler**: "often" BROO after 27 Apr (JH). **Palm Warbler**: three reports BROO, OTSE 10 to 23 Apr, max two. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: only one OTSE 14 May. **Blackpoll Warbler**: singles OTSE, BROO, TIOG 21-27 May, max two. **Cerulean Warbler**: IBM Dog Runs BROO 5 May (MP,EP), only fourth in 15 years. **Kentucky Warbler**: Franklin Mt 16 May (CV), first in 12 years. **Canada Warbler**: only OTSE, max five.

Scarlet Tanager: max six OTSE 14 May. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: max 24 OTSE 14 May; at many feeders through May. **Indigo Bunting**: max 14 DOASMC, scarce. **Rufous-sided Towhee**: max 20 DOASMC. **Am. Tree Sparrow**: max nine Endicott 21 Mar, last 27 Apr. **Vesper Sparrow**: only three singles, scarce. **Savannah Sparrow**: max 10 Lisle 30 May. **Fox Sparrow**: ten reports 24 Mar -15 Apr, max six. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: five Binghamton reports 24 Apr-30 May, good count. **Swamp Sparrow**: nesting pair OTSE 29 May, scarce. **White-throated Sparrow**: low numbers. **White-crowned Sparrow**: :best ever at my Norwich feeder, max 12" (DW). **Snow Bunting**: five reports 4-14 Mar, max 20; *intro*. **Bobolink**: most reports indicate decline but "in 10 fields T Lisle 30 May" (MP). **E. Meadowlark**: arr CORT 20 Mar; max 12 Binghamton 27 May. **Rusty Blackbird**: arr Burlington Flats 3 Apr; max three OPM 10 Apr, only reports. **N. Oriole**: max 31 OTSE 14 May. **Purple Finch**: max 11 Oneonta 20 Apr, many reports but no influx. **Com. Redpoll**: max 60 Oneonta 9 Apr, last 27 Apr, big spring incursion. **Hoary Redpoll**: Oneonta feeder 10-12 Apr (NYSARC). **Pine Siskin**: arr 17 Apr; max 15 CORT 15 May. **Evening Grosbeak**: many spring reports 11 Mar -21 May, max 20.

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

DOROTHY W. CRUMB AND JIM THROCKMORTON

A typical Central New York spring. There wasn't one. March continued the past winter's cold weather and brought more snow. The east end of Lake Ontario near Derby Hill remained essentially ice-bound until mid March. The temperature was 3.1°F below normal and precipitation was 2.37 inches above normal. The official Syracuse records, measured at the airport, recorded only 25.3 inches of snow for March. However, a huge Nor'easter started on the morning of 3 Mar with sleet and freezing rain and then dumped from 1 to 3 feet of snow just south of the city of Syracuse. April was typically fickle with mid 80s one day, mid 40s the next. There were seven days with highs over 70°F and eight days with high temperatures 50°F or less. Overall, April averaged 47.9°F, 2.2° above normal, and produced 3.7 inches of snow. May tried to kick start the summer, but frost was still evident in rural areas as late as the last week in the month. Even though the highest temperature of the month was 87°F on 31 May, the average temperature was 3° below normal. Maureen Staloff reported that the ice wasn't completely out of Delta Lake, ONEI, until 23 Apr. Gary Lee reports that the temperature in the Adirondacks ranged from 6° on 2 March to 82° on 31 May. Nine days in March started 10° or colder. There were still about two feet of snow in the Adirondacks until 15 Apr, when the temperature soared to the 70s and turned most of the snow to liquid form.

The spring period was very exciting due to the many rare or uncommon species reported from all parts of the Region. Derby Hill seemed to be the best birding spot in the Region for several reasons. First, for the period 15 Feb through 31 May, record totals were set for six raptor species: Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Merlin, and Peregrine Falcon. Individual day marks were set by Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, and Peregrine Falcon. Amazing was the average of 74.3 raptors per hour over the entire 81 day period when the weather was good enough to allow observations. If record raptor counts were not enough, there were sightings of rarities at or near Derby Hill and several reports of very large numbers of bird besides raptors. On 14 May, the first Regional *Swainson's Warbler* (NYSARC) was found by Brian Sullivan. Brian heard this southern warbler, whose northern most regular range limit is Virginia, singing and was also able to see it after a long search. The bird was never relocated. Almost as exciting was the *Yellow-throated Warbler* (NYSARC) observed by Brian on 9 May in the trees near the north lookout. Not

regularly seen anywhere in New York, Yellow-throated Warbler has only been reported in our Region four times and not since 1962. Other unusual sightings in the Derby Hill area were *Sandhill Crane*, six dark morph and three "Kriders" Red-tailed Hawks, *Loggerhead Shrike*, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and Orchard Oriole. Tuesday, 26 Apr, was an incredible day to be at Derby Hill. Ned Brinkley recorded 108 total species, including Pine Siskin, Purple Finch and Evening Grosbeak, along with 10 warbler species and 1200 Yellow-rumped Warblers! All migrants were noted while standing in one spot on a hill on the southeast corner of Lake Ontario that is most noted for raptors. Because of its location on the lake, Derby Hill also features an outstanding migration passerine birds. This year's record raptor counts and unusual passerine migration underline the fact that Derby Hill is one of the most exciting spots in the northeast for spring migration.

Just seven miles west of Derby Hill near Nine Mile point, Mary Dreiling located a *Scissor-tailed Flycatcher* (NYSARC, ph) on 28 May. This bird only stayed for 45 minutes, long enough for Mary Alice Koenke to photograph it, but not long enough for other birders to see it. The only other record for the species was in the fall of 1979, when a bird lingered for about 45 days instead of 45 minutes.

While scanning a flooded corn stubble field that had a flock of over 2000 Snow Geese near Chittenango in Madison County, Dorothy Crumb located a *Ross' Goose* (NYSARC, ph) on 28 Mar. The bird remained with the ever dwindling flock through 14 Apr and was seen by many observers who were patient enough to find it in the flock or to locate it as it disappeared, then reappeared, while swimming behind or around the rows of last year's corn. Interestingly, the only other previous Regional record of Ross' Goose also was located by Crumb in a flock of Snow Geese in 1979, also on 28 March.

The season for the usual migrants can only be described as normal with roughly average arrival dates, counts and numbers of species reported. There were no extraordinary waterfowl records. Horned Grebe continued to be scarce. The peak Double-crested Cormorant count on Lake Ontario indicate the continued growth of this species, but is not a record. Green Heron seemed particularly scarce during the period. On 20 May, a presumably non-migratory Peregrine Falcon was seen flying west and circling low near Nine Mile Point in OSWE. A different observer also saw a Peregrine at the same location the next day. The Common Tern nests in Oneida Lake were once again predated by Ruddy Turnstones (see *Kingbird* 43(4):327).

Several species continued their expansion in the area. Osprey renested at two locations near Baldwinsville and two new nests were located, one near the border of Madison and Onondaga counties on a train trestle and one near Altmar. The nest in Clay Marsh apparently was unsuccessful this year, as the Osprey were not seen around the nest after mid May. Hooded Warbler set an early arrival record for the second straight year and was seen during the nesting season in a new location, St. Mary's Cemetery in Dewitt. Wild Turkey, which has not been reported in the spring since 1989, were counted by over one-half of the Region 5 contributors.

Olive-sided Flycatcher was only reported 26 May near Lake Ontario and there were only three sightings of Black-billed Cuckoo and those were quite late in the period. The only Gray-cheeked Thrush subspecies reported this year was Bicknell's, including a quite detailed report by Sue Adair, who observed the bird in good light for almost three minutes on 19 May in Dewitt. The only other special warbler reports were a Worm-eating Warbler, and several remarks by contributors indicating that Golden-winged Warbler numbers seemed to them to be high this year. The Nine Mile Point area continues to be very reliable for sparrows. Essentially all the migrating sparrows of the area can be seen during one day. A Clay-colored Sparrow was east of Oswego on 20 May and also at Derby Hill on 21 May, the same individual moving along the lake? Northern Cardinal is continuing its expansion northward with a singing male observed at the north edge of Oswego County in the town of Redfield on 28 Apr, an unlikely place in the middle of a mixed forest with northern species such as both crossbills, Solitary Vireo and Winter Wren (Lee Chamberlaine). Indigo Bunting and Rose-breasted Grosbeak were noted at many feeders upon arrival. Possibly the heavy winter snows caused early foods to be less abundant. Both redpolls were seen during the period, including a record late date, 4 Apr, for *Hoary Redpoll* at Paul Radway's feeder in Pompey. Pine Siskin continued in low numbers with very few reports. Evening Grosbeak were observed many times, but in relatively low numbers.

There were 233 species found, plus Bicknell's Thrush, three color morphs and two hybrids, up from the 229 in 1993. The plus side of migration was the number of rarities: *Ross' Goose*, *Sandhill Crane*, *Wilson's Phalarope*, *Scissor-tailed Flycatcher*, *Swainson's Warbler*, *Yellow-throated Warbler*, and *Hoary Redpoll*. Other notable records are the numbers of various species of hawks, the three unusual Red-tailed Hawk morphs, *Loggerhead Shrike*, Worm-eating Warbler, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Bohemian Waxwing, Clay-colored Sparrow and the large numbers of Common Redpoll. Ruby-throated

Hummingbird was more abundant at local feeders. On the down side is the continued scarcity of Eastern Meadowlark and grassland sparrows. Carolina Wren suffered badly in the extraordinary cold and snow and few were reported this spring. Our best wishes to Elva Hawken, who has contributed many exciting species from her corner of MADI for a number of years and is now moving to a new birding locality.

Contributors: Sue Adair, Sue Boettger, Joe Brin, Ned Brinkley, Patrick Burns, Dave Cesari, Lee Chamberlaine, Dorothy Crumb, Paul DeBenedictis, Mary Dreiling, Dave Eichorn, Robert Evans, Craig Fosdick, William Gruenbaum, Elva Hawken, Gene Huggins, Mary Alice Koenke, Gary Lee, Bob Long, David Nash, Bill Purcell, Steve Rulison, Margaret Rusk, Jeanne Ryan, Tony Shrimpton, Maureen Staloff, Brian Sullivan, Jim Throckmorton, Judy Thurber, Judy Wright.

Abbreviations: Adk - Adirondacks; Bid - Biddlecum, n of Phoenix, OSWE; DH - Derby Hill, OSWE; LOL - Lake Ontario Littoral, OSWE; NMP - Nine Mile Point, OSWE; OneiL - Oneida Lake; OnonL - Onondaga Lake; OH - Oswego Harbor; TRGMA - Three Rivers Game Management Area, OSWE.

Spring reports: **Com. Loon:** Adk arr Old Forge 20 Apr, max 32 Toad Harbor OSWE 22 May. **Pied-billed Grebe:** arr two LSB 26 Mar. **Horned Grebe:** max 19 OneiL 22 Apr (BP). **Red-necked Grebe:** max six Beaver L ONON 22 Apr, only four reports. **Double-Crested Cormorant:** *intro* arr OnonL 26 Apr, max 2641 LOL 14 May. **Great Egret:** only two singles, Bridgeport 10 May (Betty Cristin), Island Road Cicero 23 May (John Wright). **Tundra Swan:** three Chittenango 26-29 Mar, only report. **Snow Goose:** *intro* max 2000, including 30 blue morph Chittenango 27-28 Mar. **Ross's Goose:** *intro*.

Derby Hill hawk migration totals (* indicates record numbers):

Species	Arrival	Max	Date	Last	Total
Turkey Vulture	9 Mar	*1503	4 Apr	31 May	*7385
Osprey	2 Apr	156	26 Apr	31 May	500
Bald Eagle	1 Mar	*8	29 May	31 May	*71
Northern Harrier	19 Feb	*235	24 Mar	31 May	1043
Sharp-shinned Hawk	19 Feb	1294	15 Apr	31 May	5973
Cooper's Hawk	19 Feb	117	24 Mar	31 May	*822
Northern Goshawk	17 Feb	10	14 Apr	29 May	125
Red-shouldered Hawk	12 Mar	481	24 Mar	29 May	1316
Broad-winged Hawk	14 Apr	4364	27 Apr	31 May	17104
Red-tailed Hawk	16 Feb	1382	4 Apr	31 May	*10008
Rough-legged Hawk	15 Feb	85	21 Mar	14 May	518
Golden Eagle	12 Mar	4	4 Apr	11 May	19
American Kestrel	14 Mar	151	24 Mar	30 May	734
Merlin	23 Mar	4	15 Apr	9 May	*29
Peregrine Falcon	26 Apr	*3	26 Apr	22 May	*12
Total					45659

Turkey Vulture: *intro* 80 going to roost during migration Texas 26 Mar.
Osprey: *intro*. **Bald Eagle:** four reports away from DH, one OnonL 11 Mar, imm OnonL 13 Mar, one Lakeport 1 May, one T Palermo 16 May.
Merlin: *intro* five scattered singles away from DH. **Peregrine Falcon:** *intro*. **Com. Moorhen:** arr Peter Scott Swamp OSWE 1 May. **Am. Coot:** arr 6 Mar OH, only three other scattered reports. **Sandhill Crane:** *intro*.
Black-bellied Plover: arr West Monroe 1 May, only three other reports, one West Monroe 3 May, one Cleveland 20 May, three Bid 29 May.
Ruddy Turnstone: *intro*; 20 Oneil 31 May (Connie Adamson). **Wilson's**

Phalarope: male Chittenango 16-17 May. **Bonaparte's Gull:** arr six OH 14 Apr and ten Seneca River, Baldwinsville, max 85 OH 17 Apr. **Com. Tern:** *intro*. **Black Tern:** only locations Selkirk Shores SP and Peter Scott Swamp OSWE.

Short-eared Owl: two singles, T Van Buren 3 Mar, DH 8 Mar. **Whip-poor-will:** one calling NMP 26 Apr, again nesting near Constantia Center. **Com. Nighthawk:** only three reports for the period. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** *intro* arr DH 6 May. **Red-headed Woodpecker:** only one report away from LOL, one T Paris 22 May (GH).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: only report NMP 26 May (MAK). **E. Wood-Pewee:** *intro*. **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** *intro*. **E. Bluebird:** record early arr Baldwinsville 19 Feb (JB). **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** *intro*, only four reports. **Brown Thrasher:** record early arr NMP 10 Apr (BP). **Water Pipit:** scarce, five scattered reports, max 49 OSWE 4 May. **Bohemian Waxwing:** only report 30 Rome 1 Apr (DCe). **N. Shrike:** only two reports, TRGMA 14 Mar, Texas 23 Mar. **Loggerhead Shrike:** one DH 24 Mar (BS).

Solitary Vireo: tied record early Oswego 16 Apr (CF). **N. Parula:** record early Oswego 27 Apr (CF). **Cape May Warbler:** tied record early DH 28 Apr (RL). **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** *intro*. **Yellow-throated Warbler:** *intro*. **Swainson's Warbler:** *intro*. **Worm-eating Warbler:** one near Sterling 28 Apr. **Ovenbird:** record early Baldwinsville 27 Apr (JB). **Hooded Warbler:** record early Dewitt 1 May (JThu); *intro*.

N. Cardinal: *intro*. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** *intro*. **Indigo Bunting:** *intro*. **Am. Tree Sparrow:** last six Sandy Pond 30 Apr. **Chipping Sparrow:** record early DH 4 Apr (SR); one NMP 5 Apr (MAK), 22 at one feeder T Pompey 16 Apr, high number. **Clay-colored Sparrow:** *intro*. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** only three reports. **Henslow's Sparrow:** none. **White-crowned Sparrow:** max 150 DH 6 May, good migration flight. **E. Meadowlark:** continues scarce, low numbers on spring count. **Yellow-headed Blackbird:** one DH 26 Mar (BS). **Orchard Oriole:** one DH 26 Apr. **Pine Grosbeak:** one DH 21 Mar, one Thendara 13 Mar. **Red Crossbill:** Seven Boylston 1 Apr, one Boylston 9 Apr. **White-winged Crossbill:** one Hastings 28 Mar, one Dewitt 29 Apr. **Com Redpoll:** many reports, particularly at feeders, max 450 DH 9 Apr. **Hoary Redpoll:** *intro*. **Evening Grosbeak:** max 29.

Corrigenda: Vol 44(1):54 only other record for Yellow Rail was 1991, not 1992.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

LEE B. CHAMBERLAINE

Spring 1994 was much more severe than that of 1993, with more snow overall and much colder weather. Winter storm number 16 rolled in on 10 Mar with about 6 inches of snow. Then temperatures got into the 50s and 60s on 23 and 24 Mar. Then April brought about 3 inches of snow on 3 Apr, Easter Sunday. On 7 Apr about 12 inches of snow fell in StLA and 4 inches in JEFF. The high for the period occurred on 15 Apr when it officially hit 83°F in Watertown. Rains and much cooler temperatures took over again and spring was put on hold. Remnant snow drifts in shaded areas persisted until 4 May on the Lake Ontario plain and to 12 May at higher elevations on the Tug Hill. Temperatures for May were lower than normal and heavy frosts occurred until mid May. The Lake Ontario water temperature never reached above 50°F in the period and ice on puddles was not unusual even after mid May at higher elevations such as Tug Hill and in the Adirondacks. Ice-out on Adirondack lakes was retarded. The high temperature on 28 May was 49°F with heavy rains in many locations. Spring was here on the calendar but not in the weather we experienced.

Vegetation was even farther behind than last year. Walnut, oaks, ashes, locusts, cottonwoods, and aspens leafed out very late. Winter feeding under the snow by voles (*Microtus*) and, in deep snow drifts, tree and shrub damage by cottontail rabbits was very evident and will become more so in the next period as the plants grow and flower only to wither. Debarking was severe and the mortality on trees, branches and shrub stems from the extreme prolonged cold will be evident well into this fall. A hot dry summer could even cause mortality to vegetation which was only partially debarked.

Indications for a potentially good cone crop for this fall were evident before the end of the period when newly forming cones were evident on White Spruce, Balsam Fir, Red Spruce, Scotch Pine and Hemlock. On the Lake Ontario Plain some White Pines will be producing cones but not in the quantity of last year's crop.

Over 800 Double-crested Cormorant arrived at Henderson Harbor on 14 Apr. Cormorants fed in ponds, marshes and streams because L Ontario bait fish were not yet in shallow waters due to low water temperatures during April. They frequently were seen feeding inland at Henderson Pd and Crystal L in the T Henderson, and in the Black R at Dexter on 29 Apr. The newly established colony at PRWMA increased to 18+ nests.

In Henderson a male Sharp-shinned Hawk was observed on three occasions to capture male Brown-headed Cowbird while the cowbird

was doing the back-hump courtship display for female. The hawk was also observed to take voles (*Microtus*) and an American Goldfinch as it visited a feeder daily in April. Another made almost daily visits to feeders in Ogdensburg, and one was seen harassing Black Tern at Merchant Road T Cape Vincent on 14 May (MBW).

Positives for the season include some excellent water bird observations with good numbers of Red-throated Loon, Horned Grebe and Red-necked Grebe. Some excellent woodpecker observations included Red-headed and Red-bellied Woodpeckers in numbers at new locations as well as the hard to find Black-backed Woodpecker in se STLA. Flycatchers provided good variety but many species were in lowered numbers. DiTomaso also found Yellow-bellied Flycatchers at Streeter L in numbers and also a pair of Gray Jay with young. In addition he also found *Sedge Wren* in STLA areas where he had found them last year and at some new locations. Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher numbers and locations are mind boggling. The carry over of the Bohemian Waxwing and winter finch invasion was a nice way of getting through a cold and wet spring. Migrant vireos and warblers provided excellent variety this year but numbers of some species were miserable.

The 1994 Lake Ontario Migratory Bird Survey being carried out by The Nature Conservancy will provide some much needed information on use of the Lake Ontario shoreline as a migration route and also discover new or reinforce suspected migrant trap locations. The data this year seen by this editor was very informative and also some what disappointing due to some of the low numbers of many neotropical species. The overall information will be very valuable in years to come for habitat protection and will provide a good baseline of data to compare with in years to come.

Negatives for the period were low waterfowl numbers, poor raptor numbers and variety, and low numbers of shorebirds and gulls other than the Ring-billed Gull. The Common Nighthawk population was almost nonexistent, and low numbers of swifts, swallows, thrushes, warblers and grassland sparrows were reported from in many areas. Returning numbers of some species that winter in the Middle Atlantic States suggested that there was severe winter mortality due to weather conditions on their wintering grounds.

Rarities for the period include Horned Grebe, Least Bittern, Great Egret, Barrow's Goldeneye, *Gyr Falcon*, *White-winged Tern*, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Black-backed Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Sedge Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Northern Mockingbird, *Loggerhead Shrike*, Philadelphia Vireo, Blue-winged Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Hooded Warbler and Hoary Redpoll.

We welcome back to our area and to regular reporting of observations Nick Leone, who was an active observer in this area in the late 1970s and early 1980s. On another personal note StLA will miss the Reverend Paul Kelly, who regularly reported from the Ogdensburg area. He has moved to Adams south of Watertown in southern JEFF to take over the parish at St Cecilia's Rectory.

Contributors: Marilyn Badger, Richard Brouse, Lee Chamberlaine, D. Condoulis, Ken Crowell, Dean DiTomasso, Thelma Emery, Jim Farquhar, John Green, Michael Greenwald, Robert Henrickson, Bettye Hughes, Paul Kelly, Eric Kindahl, Nick Leone, Debbie & Steve Litwhiler, Gene & Pearl McGory, Frank Mueller, Paul Novak, Peter O'Shea, David Prosser, Alison Rockwell, M. & S. Sheard, Gerry Smith, Sally Stevens, Robert & June Walker, Robert Worona, and Mary & Brian Wood.

Abbreviations: ALCOA - Aluminum Co of America Plant at Massena; CB - Chaumont Barrens T Lyme JEFF; CV - Cape Vincent JEFF; DM - Dexter Marsh JEFF; ED - El Dorado Beach Preserve, T Ellisburg JEFF; FiCWMA - Fish Creek WMA, StLA; HH - Henderson Harbor JEFF; HSUA - Henderson Shores Unique Area T Henderson JEFF; KCr - Kelsey Creek, near Watertown, JEFF; LC - Limerick Cedars Preserve, T Brownville JEFF; LOL - Lake Ontario littoral, JEFF; LOMBS - 1994 Lake Ontario Migratory Bird Survey by Gerry Smith; LWMA - Lakeview WMA T Ellisburg JEFF; MSD - Moses-Saunders Dam, T Massena StLA; PPt - Pillar Point, T Brownville JEFF; PRWMA - Perch River WMA, JEFF; PtPen - Pt Peninsula T Lyme JEFF; RMSP - Robert Moses State Park T Massena StLA; SBSP - Southwick Beach State Park T Henderson JEFF; SH - Sackets Harbor; SLR - St Lawrence River; SLB - Streeter Lake and bog, T Fine, StLA; TP - Thompson Park, Watertown; TH - Tug Hill; ULLWMA - Upper & Lower Lakes WMA, T Canton StLA; WB - Wilson Bay, T Cape Vincent JEFF; WBM - Wilson Bay Marsh at Wilson Bay; WBSP - Westcott Beach State Park T Henderson JEFF; WHWMA - Wilson Hill WMA T Louisville StLA; WI - Wellesley Island JEFF.

Spring Reports: **Red-throated Loon:** one Beaches Bridge T Watson LEWI 12 Apr (RH, ph), first for County; one Basic plumage SBSP 29 Apr (NL); one MSD 14 May (MB). **Com. Loon:** max two per day most areas; few reported. **Pied-billed Grebe:** max seven PRWMA 29 Apr; numbers may be down slightly. **Horned Grebe:** two SH 14 Apr; one Chaumont Bay T Lyme 24 Apr; one MSD 14 May. **Red-necked Grebe:** seven reports 4 Apr-5 May, max four ULLWMA 17 Apr, five Alt PRWMA 28 Apr. **Double-crested Cormorant:** intro; 26 MSD 14 May; 1000 Sawyers Bay 26 May (GM). **Am. Bittern:** max six PRWMA 29 Apr; numbers may be down a little. **Least Bittern:** one Ogdensburg 14 May (PK). **Great Blue Heron:** 11 in five flocks LWMA 21 Mar. **Great Egret:** one T Hounsfield JEFF 18 Apr (BH&TE); one Rays Bay T Henderson 3 May (BH&TE); one HH 18 May (NL); one PRWMA 24 May (SS). **Green Heron:** numbers

down. **Black-crowned Night-Heron**: one SBSP 29 Apr (NL); two SH 12 May (GM); one WBM 23 May; nesting on Gull I Henderson Bay again. **Tundra Swan**: three PRWMA 25 Mar; two there 9 Apr (MBW). **Mute Swan**: five PRWMA 20 Apr; two or three nesting. **Snow Goose**: arr 100 with two blue morphs Woodville T Ellisburg 24 Mar; max 3500+ with five blue morphs Ellisburg 28 Mar; last two Dadville LEWI 27 Apr. **Brant**: 700 Colton StLA 18 May (JG). **Canada Goose**: max 6000+ Ellisburg 29 Mar, max for LEWI 3500, fewer than usual (RH); y T CV 11 May. **Green-winged Teal**: max 20+ Henderson & 25 PRWMA 9 Apr. **Am. Black Duck**: three Adams 17 Mar; 300 Ellisburg 28 Mar; 400+ Henderson 9 Apr. **Mallard**: 300 Ellisburg 24 Mar; 600 Ellisburg 28 Mar; 600+ Henderson 9 Apr; pair on THWMA LEWI beaver pd 28 May. **N. Pintail**: max 300 Ellisburg 28 Mar; numbers down in Henderson. **Blue-winged Teal**: max 30 PRWMA 18 Apr. **N. Shoveler**: pair Ellisburg 28 Mar; five males LWMA 27 Apr. **Gadwall**: max 14 PtPen 11 Apr; ten PRWMA 18 Apr, three on 11 May. **Am. Wigeon**: max 30+ Henderson 9 Apr; last 27 Apr. **Canvasback**: eight Muskellunge Creek T Hounsfield JEFF 29 Mar; six 3 Mi Pt T Lyme 10 Apr; max 32 PtPen 11 Apr; 12 WHWMA 17 Apr. **Redhead**: six WI 5 Mar; male ED 15 May (NL). **Ring-necked Duck**: max 86+ PtPen 11 Apr; male PRWMA 14 May; numbers down LEWI (RH). **Greater Scaup**: max 3000+ Eel Bay WI 22 Apr; one Crystal L T Henderson 12 May. **Lesser Scaup**: 20 PtPen 2 Apr (MBW). **Oldsquaw**: 67 HH 30 Apr, probably feeding on Zebra Mussels; max 75 Tibbets Pt T CV 11 May; 13 ED 15 May (NL); three WB full breeding plumage 15-17 May (MBW). **White-winged Scoter**: one SLR Ogdensburg 1 Apr, only report. **Com. Goldeneye**: max 509+ PtPen 11 Apr; two WI Eel Bay 2 May. **Barrow's Goldeneye**: first spring male MSD 20 Mar (DD). **Bufflehead**: max 160+ PtPen 11 Apr; 20 pair LWMA 24 Apr. **Hooded Merganser**: max 28 PRWMA 26 Mar. **Com. Merganser**: max 129 SLR JEFF & StLA 5 Mar; 70 MSD 20 Mar; 10 PtPen 2 Apr. **Red-breasted Merganser**: three PtPen 2 Apr; two MSD 1 May; pair WB 3 May.

Turkey Vulture: arr LWMA 21 Mar; hundreds e LWMA 5 Apr; six-seven/day in May. **Osprey**: arr PRWMA 2 Apr, record early; four birds, possibly three nests PRWMA, one in goose nesting tub again this year; nest T Oswegatchie StLA 18 Apr (DD). **Bald Eagle**: pair returned PRWMA nest site mid Mar (*fide* Frank LaFlair), fledged one y; nest on Raquette R StLA fledged two y; nine other reports. **N. Harrier**: numbers high. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: *intro*. **Cooper's Hawk**: about 13 sightings. **N. Goshawk**: frequent at Ogdensburg feeders in Mar (PK); two Ellisburg 19 Mar; one LWMA 31 Mar; imm Henderson 30 Apr; ad on nest Star L T Fine StLA 6 May (DD). **Red-shouldered Hawk**: very few observed. **Broad-winged Hawk**: about 50 over Sand Bay T CV 27 Apr (MBW); no flights over LWMA this year. **Red-tailed Hawk**: max 31 1 Mar; local bird numbers are up; no large flights at LWMA. **Rough-**

legged Hawk: max 24 T CV & Lyme 1 Mar, 32 on 26 Mar, 18 on 1 Apr; last T Brownville JEFF 23 May, late. **Am. Kestrel:** max ten Henderson 28 Apr, numbers down. **Merlin:** one Hounsfield JEFF 5 Apr (NL), only report. **Gyr Falcon:** gray bird Mason Road T CV 7-23 Mar (MBW&FM). **Gray Partridge:** max 20 T CV 11 Mar; one 3 Mile Pt 27 Mar (RJW). **Ring-necked Pheasant:** a few released birds in Henderson and Watertown. **Ruffed Grouse:** scarce. **Wild Turkey:** 13 Louisville StLA 1 Mar; max 18 T Alexandria JEFF 5 Mar; three T Pitcairn StLA 14 Apr (PO); two in field NY Route 177 T Harrisburg TH LEWI 28 May; female Forward Truck Trail T Pinckney TH LEWI 28 May; three heard LOL in Apr (LOMBS). **N. Bobwhite:** released bird Henderson 28 May. **Com. Moorhen:** max 21 PRWMA 29 Apr; two WBM 14 May. **Am. Coot:** three PRWMA 29 Apr, only report. **Semipalmated Plover:** three Grass R T Louisville StLA 23 May. **Killdeer:** max 28 PtPen 26 Mar; numbers up on LOL. **Greater Yellowlegs:** max 32 PRWMA 18 Apr, six Ellisburg 27 Apr. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** max four Massena, eight Ellisburg 27 Apr; two PRWMA 2 May. **Solitary Sandpiper:** one Wilson Road T CV 9-13 Mar; one THSF on beaver pd T Rodman TH 14 May; three Dadville LEWI 13 May; one Stone Quarry Road T CV 17 May. **Spotted Sandpiper:** max four ED 14 May, numbers decreasing annually. **Upland Sandpiper:** two T Hounsfield JEFF 2 May; one Louisville StLA 4 May; one CB 11 May (NL); pair NY Route 180 near Gunns Corners JEFF 14 May; one Hopkinton StLA 25 May; Gerry Smith had one in all his travels for LOMBS. **Least Sandpiper:** one Grass R T Louisville StLA 8 May (MB); one WB 11 May; five in pd Merchant Road T CV 15-18 May (MBW). **Dunlin:** max 10 HH 16 May; seven PtPen 25 May (BH&TE). **Com. Snipe:** courtship flight PRWMA 20 Apr; numbers down a little. **Am. Woodcock:** all over the road and roadside Martinsburg LEWI 2 Mar (JF), a flock fallout; five Stony Pt T Henderson 2 May. **Bonaparte's Gull:** four E Martinsburg LEWI 15 Apr; seven Glenfield LEWI 17 Apr; four Eel Bay WI 22 Apr; numbers down on L Ontario. **Ring-billed Gull:** large numbers arr Henderson area 14 Mar, more on 22 Mar; 3000+ in s part of JEFF 24 Mar; hundreds in plowed fields 7-9 May. **Herring Gull:** max seven; three WB 3 Apr; no longer very plentiful. **Great Black-backed Gull:** max eight MSD 15 Apr; seven PtPen 25 May. **Caspian Tern:** arr 18 Apr, early; max 67 PRWMA 29 Apr; one WBM 14 May. **Com. Tern:** arr 20 MSD 28 Apr; max 25 WI Eel Bay 2 May; ten WHWMA 6 May; one French Creek T Clayton 10 May. **White-winged Tern:** one PRWMA 8 May (RW, NYSARC), only report. **Black Tern:** 30+ PRWMA 2 May; 12 WBM 3 May; 40 ULLWMA 8 May; 80+ LWMA 10 May; 80+ PRWMA 11 May; 76 WBM 17 May.

Mourning Dove: numbers seemed up on TH, down on LOL. **Black-billed Cuckoo:** one Louisville StLA 18 May, two on 24 May (MB), only reports. **E. Screech-Owl:** seen last at CV nest site 20 Mar (MBW), winter loss?; red morph TP 11 May (BH&TE, ph); one heard CV 31 May (MBW).

Great Horned Owl: ad at nest with two y being fed Ring-billed Gull WBSP 30 Apr, y gone 12 May (BH&TE). **Snowy Owl:** one PtPen 1 Mar; one Mason Road T CV 11 Mar; Ogdensburg Airport 24 Mar; last T CV 19 Apr. **Barred Owl:** only one report. **Short-eared Owl:** two Depauville 6 Mar, one there 27 Mar (NL). **N. Saw-whet Owl:** one SLB 29 May (DD). **Com. Nighthawk:** one Stony Pt T Henderson 22 May; two Wilson Road T CV 29 May; one T Lorraine TH JEFF 29 May; arr Ogdensburg 30 May. **Whip-poor-will:** three HSUA 2 May; four HSUA 22 May (GPM); one T Lorraine TH JEFF 26 May; seven LC 30 May; one Burnt Rock Road T CV 30 May. **Chimney Swift:** max 15 Massena 10 May, numbers low. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** numbers normal, with heavy use of feeders due to cold weather after their return. **Belted Kingfisher:** arr WB 11 Apr. **Red-headed Woodpecker:** five singles LOL 2-29 May. **Red-bellied Woodpecker:** one SH 2 Mar; wintering bird KCr last seen 3 May (RB); one Rural Hill T Ellisburg JEFF 7 May (LOMBS); one PPt 28 May (LOMBS); first TH record T Lorraine JEFF 28 May (DSL). **Black-backed Woodpecker:** one SLB 19 Mar (DD). **N. Flicker:** moving into TH 4 Apr; large numbers moving 16 Apr-13 May. **Pileated Woodpecker:** about 18 sightings, more than normal.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: none. **E. Wood-Pewee:** six Washington P T Lorraine JEFF 31 May; numbers very low. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** nine SLB 29 May (DD); one Massena 24 May (MB). **Alder Flycatcher:** six Massena 24 May. **Willow Flycatcher:** one T Edwards StLA 24 May (PO); one WI 25 May; one Brownie Road T Louisville StLA 25 May; many LOL (LOMBS). **Least Flycatcher:** 13 THSF 14 May; eight Washington Pt T Lorraine JEFF 31 May. **E. Phoebe:** good return in Apr but numbers somewhat depressed in May. **Great Crested Flycatcher:** arr 28 Apr, record early; numbers normal if not up a little bit. **Horned Lark:** max 69 T Lyme & T CV 11 Mar. **Purple Martin:** nine pairs Massena Center; numbers way down. **Tree Swallow:** max 600+ feeding over water PRWMA 13 May, a very cold day. **N. Rough-winged Swallow:** max 15 PRWMA 13 May; four Washington P T Lorraine JEFF 31 May. **Bank Swallow:** way down in Massena (MB). **Cliff Swallow:** max 200 MSD 14 May. **Barn Swallow:** numbers moving over Colwell Hill LWMA 27 Apr; 100+ PRWMA 13 May. **Gray Jay:** two ad SLB 6 May, two ad, three juv on 29 May (DD). **Blue Jay:** noticeable movement along L Ontario shoreline till mid May; 40 Massena 14 May. **Am. Crow:** movement into TH LEWI and JEFF 11 Mar; heavy movement LWMA 27 Apr; nest building noted in early Apr, food carrying mid May. **Com. Raven:** max eight on deer carcass near Cranberry L StLA 3 Mar (PO); nest at Whetstone Gulf SP LEWI active again this year (*fide* Mary Alice Koenke); two RMSP 5 Mar (DD); two ALCOA Massena 7 May (DD); one T Lorraine TH JEFF 29 May (DSL). **Black-capped Chickadee:** 18+ Henderson feeder 17 Mar; a flight at LWMA 27 Apr; numbers seemed down after mid Apr. **Tufted Titmouse:** one Heuvelton StLA 13 Mar (DD); one LWMA 21 Mar (LC); wintering bird KCr area last seen 8 Apr

(RB); one Dexter JEFF 5 May (LOMBS). **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: high numbers LOL, large flight Henderson 29 Apr. **White-breasted Nuthatch**: numbers low, one-two/day. **Brown Creeper**: max four Henderson 11 Apr, three LWMA 3 May, scarce. **Carolina Wren**: KCr bird(s) last seen 8 Apr, had been there for almost three years (RB); one WBSP 30 Apr, 5 May, 28 May (LOMBS); one WBM 4 May (LOMBS). **House Wren**: arr LWMA 27 Apr; many TH LEWI 11 May. **Winter Wren**: numerous in suitable habitat LOL (LOMBS); one in yard CV 26-27 Apr; three Littlejohn WMA T Worth JEFF 28 Apr; two Henderson 7 May; three TH Lorraine JEFF 11 May; one yard CV 20 May. **Sedge Wren**: singles in wet meadow MSD 17 May (MB), Calaboga Road T Hammond StLA 24 May, Stone Church Road T Oswegatchie StLA 24 May, Fish Creek T De Peyster StLA 27 May, County Route 108 T Potsdam StLA 28 May (DD). **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: scarce. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: large numbers 21 April-mid May. **Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher**: 13 reports 27 Apr-19 May as far north as Massena; max three LWMA 3 May (LC) and 19 May (NL); unprecedented numbers. **E. Bluebird**: six Patterson Road T Louisville StLA 27 Mar (MB); one Worth TH LEWI 1 Apr where four feet of snow on level; numbers down. **Veery**: numbers very low. **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: one WBSP 28 May (LOMBS), only report. **Swainson's Thrush**: three migrants LOL 17-23 May; one singing Star L StLA 31 May (PO). **Hermit Thrush**: numbers low. **Wood Thrush**: numbers fair. **Am. Robin**: one Henderson 12 Mar, first nest 14 Apr; hundreds roadside in snow TH 4 Apr, where numbers up (LC). **Gray Catbird**: arr 4 May; numbers down in many areas. **N. Mockingbird**: one Danley Road T Henderson 13 May (GM *fide* Ed Barr). **Brown Thrasher**: max six LC 23 May; numbers up in some areas. **Water Pipit**: one Stony Pt Road T CV 3 May; two Merchant Road T CV 14 May; max 30 T De Peyster StLA 19 May. **Bohemian Waxwing**: 40 Massena 5 Mar; 48 PPt 8 Mar; 350-400 KCr 19 Mar (RB); 60 ULLWMA 15 Mar (DD); 20 RMSP 20 Mar; max 1200-1500 NY Route 11 1 mi s of Watertown 9 Apr (RB); last 200+ Watertown 10 Apr (DP). **Cedar Waxwing**: max 30 T Louisville StLA 30 Apr; five CB eating Pasture Juniper berries 22 May. **N. Shrike**: one T Alexandria JEFF 5 Mar; last Waddington StLA 26 Mar. **Loggerhead Shrike**: one foraging Huff Road T CV 22-23 May (LC&GM, mob), not persistent. **European Starling**: major return Ogdensburg 15-16 Mar; six at feeder T Lorraine TH JEFF 11 Mar, four at feeders Barnes Corners LEWI 11 Mar, seems to be increasing on TH. **Solitary Vireo**: numerous Littlejohn WMA T Worth JEFF 28 Apr. **Yellow-throated Vireo**: five reports, max two. **Warbling Vireo**: arr 26 Apr, record early; numbers up somewhat. **Philadelphia Vireo**: one WBSP 11 May (LOMBS); one PPt 22 May (LOMBS); three Woods Road T CV 23 May (MBW). **Red-eyed Vireo**: numbers down somewhat. **Blue-winged Warbler**: one WBSP 15 May (LOMBS); one T Lorraine TH JEFF 15 May (DSL); two WBSP 22 May (NL); one PPt 25 May (LOMBS); one

WBSP 28 May (LOMBS). **Golden-winged Warbler**: one WBSP 21 May (LOMBS); one PRWMA 21 May (NL&RW); one PtPen 22 May (LOMBS). **Tennessee Warbler**: one Snowshoe Pt T Henderson 11 May (LOMBS); one PtPen 14 May (LOMBS); four LWMA Lakeview Pd 15 May (RJW). **Nashville Warbler**: arr 28 Apr, record early; eight THSF 14 May. **N. Parula**: arr 7 May, record early; two TP 13 May (NL); SLB 23 May. **Yellow Warbler**: numbers down on the LOL. **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: arr 28 Apr, record early; in good numbers TH. **Magnolia Warbler**: arr 4 May, record early; numbers up. **Cape May Warbler**: very scarce. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: arr 28 Apr, record early; numbers fair. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: excellent flight, found everywhere. **Black-throated Green Warbler**: arr ED 28 Apr, record early (LOMBS); poor showing CV (MBW). **Blackburnian Warbler**: arr 5 May; fairly good numbers. **Pine Warbler**: four Dollar Road T Lisbon StLA 26 Apr (DD); one Muskellunge Creek T Hounsfield JEFF 11 May (NL); one WBSP 8 May (LOMBS). **Prairie Warbler**: one TP 10 May (NL); five LC 11 May (NL&RW); three CB 22 May (LC). **Palm Warbler**: max two T CV 14 May, very low numbers. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: less than last year. **Blackpoll Warbler**: one WBM 19 May (LOMBS); three CV 26 May; one THWMA 28 May; one ED 28 May. **Cerulean Warbler**: singles FiCWMA T Macomb StLA 19 May, Red L area T Theresa JEFF 27 May (DD). **Am. Redstart**: arr 4 May, record early; numbers down. **Ovenbird**: down from last year. **N. Waterthrush**: arr 26 Apr, record early; on TH numbers up. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: two Red L area T Theresa JEFF 27 May (DD); one Washington P T Lorraine JEFF 30 May (NL). **Mourning Warbler**: male Washington P T Lorraine JEFF 30 May (NL), only report. **Hooded Warbler**: one SBSP 7 May (LOMBS). **Wilson's Warbler**: two Stony Pt T Henderson 15 May (LOMBS); last 28 May. **Canada Warbler**: max two T Louisville StLA 18 May, very scarce.

Scarlet Tanager: numbers low but better than last year. **N. Cardinal**: max 25 Massena (MB); one singing Edwards StLA 15 Mar (PO). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: arr 2 May, record early; many at feeders, up to seven in Henderson; numbers are up everywhere; 20 THSF T Rodman JEFF 14 May; 12 TH 28 May. **Indigo Bunting**: at feeders in many locations in mid May; numbers down, one-two/day. **Rufous-sided Towhee**: numbers seem to be up at LC & CB. **Am. Tree Sparrow**: max JEFF 25 Henderson 28 Mar; last two PRWMA 30 Mar. **Chipping Sparrow**: arr 12 Apr, record early; max 10 at feeder Henderson 7 May; numbers up from last year in Henderson; albinistic individual PRWMA 11 May (LC, ph, NL&RW). **Field Sparrow**: three at feeder Watertown 17 Apr; numbers up. **Vesper Sparrow**: arr four PtPen 4 Apr, record early; two Clayton JEFF 13 Apr (DD); three PtPen 20 Apr; two Belleville JEFF 16 May (LC); two singing Webster Road T Hammond StLA 24 May (DD). **Fox Sparrow**: one CV 21 Mar (MW); arr T Lorraine TH JEFF 7 Apr (DSL);

one T Lorraine TH JEFF 21-22 Apr (DSL); two PRWMA 29 Apr (BH&TE); one Massena 30 Apr (MB). **Song Sparrow**: max 38 Ogdensburg 7 Apr with six inches of new snow; numbers down in Henderson. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: one in yard CV 14-15 May (MBW); one ED 18 May (NL); three SLB 29 May (DD). **Swamp Sparrow**: arr PRWMA 20 Apr; numbers normal. **White-throated Sparrow**: arr T Lorraine TH JEFF 15 Apr; flight at Henderson 26 Apr; numbers down in many nesting areas on LOL. **White-crowned Sparrow**: ad Henderson 14 Apr, early; max eight Henderson, low; max 11 T Lorraine TH 10 May. **Dark-eyed Junco**: large numbers Henderson 3 Apr; moving into TH 4 Apr; 40+ HSUA 8 Apr; 40+ Henderson feeder 16 Apr, more than usual at these locations. **Snow Bunting**: 12 WI 20 Mar; max 20 Bates Road T CV 30 Mar; last PtPen 2 Apr. **Bobolink**: arr 28 Apr, record early; numbers up in JEFF. **Red-winged Blackbird**: arr Henderson 16 Mar; 1000s Henderson 24 Mar. **E. Meadowlark**: 10 Henderson 8 May; numbers up some LOL. **Rusty Blackbird**: 80+ PRWMA 2 May; max 200-300 PRWMA 4 May (NL); 100 Indian Creek Nature Center at ULLWMA 7 May; six PRWMA 9 May; 11 T Louisville StLA 19 May; more reports and birds than normal. **Com. Grackle**: arr Henderson 14 Mar; 100s Henderson 24 Mar; FL Henderson 25 May. **Brown-headed Cowbird**: 60+ Henderson feeders 9 Apr; 80+ Henderson feeders 14 Apr; numbers up on LOL. **N. Oriole**: arr 28 Apr, record early (LOMBS); numbers up from last year. **Pine Grosbeak**: max 10 T Brownville JEFF 4 Mar; last two feeding on Sugar Maple buds Henderson 26 Mar. **Purple Finch**: max 10 Henderson 26 Apr, scarce; one calling like a Pine Grosbeak 28 Apr (LC). **House Finch**: max 30 Ogdensburg 1 Mar, low (PK); max 80+ Henderson 17 Mar; heavy movement along L Ontario shore 21-23 Mar; nest building began Henderson 18 Apr; numbers Henderson down after mid Apr; no y in period, late. **Red Crossbill**: two in road T Lorraine TH JEFF 28 Apr (PN). **Com. Redpoll**: 100+ Henderson feeders 18 Mar included three-four Greater (*rostrata*) (LC, ph); a leucustic (piebald) bird with 70+ others Henderson 3 Apr (LC, ph); max 250 T Lorraine JEFF TH 6 Apr (DSL); last three CV JEFF 26 Apr, two StLA 1 May. **Hoary Redpoll**: one KCr feeder 6 Apr (RB). **Pine Siskin**: main movement at Ogdensburg 14 May; max nine T Louisville StLA 13-14 May; seven T Lorraine TH JEFF 10 May; one CV 29 May; numbers low. **Am. Goldfinch**: 37 T Lorraine TH JEFF 9 May; max 52 mostly males Henderson feeder 16 May; up to 70 at feeders CV 4-23 May. **Evening Grosbeak**: max 150 T Lorraine TH JEFF 1 Apr (DSL); last 30 May. **House Sparrow**: numbers up Henderson and Watertown.

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

JOHN M. C. PETERSON

Spring was late in arriving, and the season began with -6°F at Inlet on 2 Mar and snowstorm number 15 on 3 Mar. There was still 20 inches of snow on the Lang Road when hawk watching began at Coot Hill on 2 Apr, and hawk watchers were still skiing and snowshoeing to the summit a week later, following 8 to 10 inches of snow on 7 Apr. The weather began to break on 15 Apr, a clear day in the 70's. As the snowpack in the High Peaks melted, Lake Champlain continued to rise, reaching 101.36 feet by 22 Apr, just short of the record set the previous year on 28 Apr. Much of early May was cold and rainy. Thermometers finally reached 81°F at Plattsburgh on 30 May and 82°F at Inlet the following day.

The bird banding station at Crown Point State Historic Site was in operation for 11 days, from 6 to 16 May. A total of 250 birds of 37 different species was banded and released. Two Northern Saw-whet Owl were new to both the station and the Historic Site. There were returns of 19 individuals of six different species banded at Crown Point in previous years. Oldest was an American Goldfinch banded 12 May 1990 which returned 14 May, aged at least 4 years, 11 months.

During an annular eclipse of the sun on 10 May, there was no significant variation in the number of species/hour recorded in the vicinity of the banding station between 4 AM and 3 PM. Interestingly, the Wood Thrush that began singing at 4 AM and continued until just after 1 PM stopped singing at the height of the eclipse. Bird song in general did seem to drop off as the cold, eerie light developed. And the temperature certainly dropped, from 65°F at 11:55 AM to 52°F at 1:35 PM! The most noteworthy avian event, perhaps brought on by a hatch of insects that emerged with the dropping temperatures, was a highly active mixed flock of about 40 swallows of all five species at the tip of the peninsula at the height of the eclipse.

The recent nesting records of *Merlin* and *Wilson's Phalarope* continued into 1994. A pair of *Merlin* at the Morrisonville, CLIN, home of Ellwood Meyers 15-28 Apr were engaged in courtship behavior and copulation. Meanwhile, Pat Tarkowski found a *Merlin* pair behind her office on the east side of Mirror Lake, Lake Placid, ESSE, in late April. She heard and saw them almost daily through May hanging around a tall, spindly Norway spruce. They were also seen by Greenleaf Chase, Bob Hagar, and Pat Taber. This site is just 1/3 mile north of the 1993 nest on the Lake Placid Club golf course, and may be the same pair. Also apparent returnees were the *Wilson's Phalarope* at Lauren's Farm, CLIN.

Candy Hess and Bill Krueger discovered a female on 10 May, last seen with a male by Krueger 15 May; the male phalarope remained through May and was also seen by Charlie Mitchell and Lang Stevenson.

At 10:30 AM on the overcast morning of Sunday, 8 May, with a cold, light north-northwest wind blowing off Lake Champlain, Mike Peterson and Dean Spaulding watched with awe, and almost disbelief, as a large bird appeared over the walls of Amherst's British fort and cruised westward across the tip of the peninsula before disappearing. Believed by both observers to be a *Yellow-nosed Albatross*, details will be provided to NYSARC.

A total of 205 species was reported, down from 216 in 1993, but respectable, given the cold spring and delayed migration. A Red-throated Loon was a first ESSE spring record. There were also several birds new to the Region. Vermonter Judy Peterson reported two *Forster's Tern* under the Crown Point Bridge in early April and they were later seen by Cargill and Hall on 9 Apr. Even more unexpected to Bob Hagar was the *Fish Crow* seen and heard giving the short and weak, nasal "carr" call in Saranac Lake, ESSE, at 1 PM on 7 Apr. Several American Crow were cawing in the same white pines, the snow beneath still two feet deep. Despite the delayed migration, there were good warbler reports, including several Regional rarities, including *Blue-winged Warbler*, *Orange-crowned Warbler*, *Cerulean Warbler*, and *Louisiana Waterthrush*.

Seldom birded in the past, Plattsburgh AFB is now under base closure orders. Mark Gretch worked there this season for the NYS Natural Heritage Program, and he thinks he has found the largest colony, or at least the greatest concentration, of Grasshopper Sparrow in the Region. On 19 May he had a maximum of nine singing along a 2 mile stretch of grasslands bordering the runway. On 24 May, he located six. Ellwood Meyers observed Grasshopper Sparrows there between 1986 and 1992 while he was stationed there, and the species was not found when the base was surveyed for the breeding bird atlas. Crowded into this thin patch or strip of short-grass habitat are tremendous numbers of grassland birds, including Horned Lark, Vesper Sparrow, and Savannah Sparrow. Future plans for the base range from an air-freight hub to an RV park.

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Abbreviations: CL - Chazy Landing; CH - Coot Hill; CPt - Crown Point State Historic Site; GF - Gravelle Farm; LF - Lauren Farm; TL - Tupper Lake.

Spring reports. *Red-throated Loon*: one in an open lead under the CPt Bridge 9 Apr (JP, DS, RW), last seen 14 Apr (DC, TH). **Com. Loon**: used platform Limekiln L, but something broke up first nest. **Horned Grebe**: max 30 Westport 23 Apr (JP, DS); nine socked in by fog Raquette Pd 26 Apr (CD). **Red-necked Grebe**: 14 socked in Raquette Pd 26 Apr; four Treadwell Bay 3 May. *Yellow-nosed Albatross*: *intro*. **Double-crested Cormorant**: TL 27 Apr, uncommon inland. **Great Blue Heron**: 18 nests Webb Royce Swamp 23 Apr. **Great Egret**: Plattsburgh 19 Apr; Hogansburg 26 Apr; L Alice 3 May, increasingly common. **Cattle Egret**: two Beekmantown 28 Apr; Peru 29 Apr; two Pt au Roche 3 May, may originate in Young I, VT, colony. **Snow Goose**: neck-collared "Greater" Cumberland Head 6 Apr banded near Pierreville, Quebec, 22 Apr 1987 was hatched in 1985 or earlier and was at least 8 years, 10 months old! **Brant**: max 250+ CPt 16 May (GL, J&SP). **Green-winged Teal**: arr Saranac R mouth 8 Mar (BK), early. **N. Pintail**: two GF 14 May (MG); three CL 29 May (BK, LS), late, possible breeders. **Gadwall**: one-eight GF 14-18 May (MG); five CL 29 May (BK, LS), possible breeders. **Am. Wigeon**: max nine GF 14 May (MG); two CL 29 May (BK, LS), possible breeders. **Surf Scoter**: pair Essex 2 May (A&CS). **Barrow's Goldeneye**: drake Cumberland Head ferry dock 25 Mar (BK), becoming more frequent. **Red-breasted Merganser**: pair Raquette Pd 7 Apr, one there 26 Apr; pair Westport, drake Bulwagga Bay 23 Apr; hen Bulwagga Bay 15 May, late.

Osprey: arr CPt 31 Mar, where a male was displaying near nest platform in May. **Bald Eagle**: at least ten birds reported across the Region. **N. Harrier**: max 12 Whallonsburgh 10 Apr (DS). **Rough-legged Hawk**: max six Whallonsburgh 26 Mar (JP, DS). **Golden Eagle**: Route 22 Beekmantown 29 May (HK), late. *Merlin*: *intro*.; arr Wadhams 30 Mar (DS). **Peregrine Falcon**: local CH during Apr; 4 other reports from vicinity of known nest sites. *Gyrffalcon*: gray bird lingered at Saranac R mouth to 25 Mar (BK, RM, mobs). **Gray Partridge**: two s Little Chazy R 24 Mar (CH), only report. **Ring-necked Pheasant**: TL feeder 28 Apr, only report. **Am. Coot**: Cumberland Head ferry 8 Mar (BK), early, lake still frozen. **Black-bellied Plover**: arr LF 10 May (CH, BK), early. **American Golden-Plover**: arr GF 14 May (MG). **Semipalmated Plover**: max 4 CL 29 May (BK, LS). **Greater Yellowlegs**: Essex Station marsh 2 May; max seven GF 14 May (MG). **Solitary Sandpiper**: Essex Station marsh 27 Apr (AL, DS). **Ruddy Turnstone**: max three LF 27 May (BK).

Dunlin: LF 13-29 May; max nine there 27 May (BK). *Wilson's Phalarope:* intro. **Bonaparte's Gull:** arr six Cumberland Head ferry 29 Apr (HW); Cheever yard 14 May (GC), a good find. **Great Black-backed Gull:** nine Barber Pd ESSE 11 Apr (JPDS), good numbers inland, but attracted by nearby ESSE landfill. **Com. Tern:** two GF 14 May; two CL 29 May. *Forster's Tern:* intro. **Black Tern:** two-four near GF, LF, and nearby WMA 13-29 May, when ad observed mate-feeding another; three Rouses Pt 15 May.

N. Saw-whet Owl: intro.; five other reports Mar-Apr. **Whip-poor-will:** Plattsburgh AFB and Ticonderoga. **Black-backed Woodpecker:** Brown's Tract Ponds 7 Mar.

Horned Lark: intro.; two TL 20 Apr (CD), where rare. **N. Rough-winged Swallow:** two Westport 23 Apr (JPDS), early ESSE arrival. **Gray Jay:** Helldiver Pd 8 Mar, family with 2 sooty y there 26 May (GL); other reports from Brown's Tract Ponds, Ferd's Bog, Inlet to Sagamore during May. **Blue Jay:** 20 at TL feeder 9 May, winter max was six. **Am. Crow:** intro. **Fish Crow:** intro. **Tufted Titmouse:** near Elizabethtown 14 Apr. **Marsh Wren:** arr Carpenter's Flats 28 Apr (BK), early. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** CPt from 7 May, only location. **N. Mockingbird:** Wadhams arr 24 Apr; two banded CPt. **Am. Pipit:** max 35 TL 14 May; 13 Chazy 18 May (BK); good numbers in spring. **Bohemian Waxwing:** seven different locations CLIN and ESSE; max 60 Wadhams 8 Mar (DS); last Plattsburgh 28 Apr (CM), an excellent showing.

Philadelphia Vireo: max three singing males Sanford L ESSE 29 May (FG, WL). **Blue-winged Warbler:** singing male L Alice 26 May (WK), first for CLIN. **Orange-crowned Warbler:** arr Plattsburgh 3 May (J&RH), one Newcomb 12 May (AS), Keene Valley 14 May (A&LS, ASt). **N. Parula:** transient banded CPt. **Pine Warbler:** arr Rugar Woods 16 Apr (HK); reports from five other locations, a good showing. **Palm Warbler:** four (Western) banded CPt 10-16 May; two TL and three Paul Smiths 14 May. **Cerulean Warbler:** along the Hull's Fall Road outside Keene Valley 14 May (LS, ASt). **Louisiana Waterthrush:** one along Dry Mill Creek CLIN 31 May (HK, BK), at n limit of range.

Rufous-sided Towhee: arr Hogansburg 6 Apr; Westport 17 Apr; CPt 6-16 May; CLIN 14 May, better than average showing. **Am. Tree Sparrow:** banded Elizabethtown 3 May, late. **Vesper Sparrow:** intro; arr Wadhams 26 Mar (JP, DS), early. **Savannah Sparrow:** intro. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** intro. **Fox Sparrow:** reports from five locations; last Newcomb 14 May (JM), record late for ESSE. **White-throated Sparrow:** one of 14 netted Elizabethtown 3 May was banded 9 days earlier near Stahlstown, PA, by K. C. Parkes. **White-crowned Sparrow:** last 2,400 feet elevation of Porter Mt 27 May (WL), another late ESSE record. **Snow Bunting:** Sixth L 5 Mar, only report. **Rusty Blackbird:** Ausable Pt 7 May, only report. **Pine Grosbeak:** last CLIN 25 Mar (HK). **Purple Finch:** Wadhams 23 Apr, and increasingly frequent thereafter. **House Finch:** Inlet feeder 9 Apr, where

still unusual. **Com. Redpoll:** remained abundant at feeders, max 200 Inlet 3 Apr, last there 26 Apr (GL); last TL 28 Apr (CD). **Hoary Redpoll:** reliable reports/photos from four feeders, including one-three Elizabethtown 1-17 Mar (two banded 12 Mar, JP); one Keene 19-21 Mar (J&PT); one-two Wadhams 22 Mar-6 Apr (DS); last Plattsburgh 11 Apr (CM). **Pine Siskin:** max 20 Westport 25 Apr; 8 TL 28 Apr; migrants banded CPt May. **Am. Goldfinch:** four near Elizabethtown 28 Mar; max 30 Westport 25 Apr; 109 migrants banded Elizabethtown and CPt 27 Apr-15 May (JP); *intro.* **Evening Grosbeak:** nine returned near Elizabethtown 24 Mar; max 23 TL 28 Mar, with transients and breeding birds arriving through May.

Exotic: Chukar: one that seemed quite tame at a Wilmington, ESSE, feeder with Ruffed Grouse 2-3 Apr (Joanne Duncan, ph); none known to have been released in the Wilmington area (*fide* NYS DEC office at Ray Brook).

Addenda: Snow Goose: CLIN 12 Sep 1993 (MG), early NYS arrival. Another eight Greater Snow Geese whose neck collars were read at Point au Roche CLIN between 28 Oct-2 Dec 1993 were females banded near Bylot Island, District of Franklin, NWT, in Jul 1991 and in Aug 1992 and 1993. **Golden Eagle:** belated word that the HAMI pair nested for about 5 years after last known report, and probably during the Atlas period (*fide* GL). **Laughing Gull:** imm Crown Point Bridge and State Historic Site early Aug 1993 (Wayne Scott, mob); 5 Aug 1993 (TH), first record for ESSE, Adirondack Park, and the Adirondack-Champlain Region. **Am. Goldfinch:** one banded near Elizabethtown 22 Feb 1993 found dead at Waveland, Mississippi, 27 Jan 1994.

Discovery Farm, RR 1, Box 230 Elizabethtown, New York 12932

REGION 8 — HUDSON MOHAWK

JANE E. GRAVES

March saw the continuation of the harsh weather experienced since late December. The month was colder than normal, with only days of spring like temperatures on 23 and 29 Mar, when the mercury climbed into the 60s. The mean temperature was 33.1°F, 1.2° below normal. Sunshine averaged a normal 53%, but seven days were totally without sunshine. Snowy weather continued well into March, with 19.1 inches total snowfall, 8.5 inches greater than normal. A snowstorm on 3 Mar

produced 10.9 Mar and snow fell on 16 days. There were still significant amounts of snow on the ground at the end of the month. The seasonal snowfall of 88.1 inches was close to the top ten snowiest winters recorded. April averaged a welcome 48.2°F, 1.8° above average, with the temperature going above 80° on 15 and 27 Apr. Bob Yunick commented that the nearly 50° temperature spread on 15 Apr drove many of early migrants on north. Sunshine averaged 58%, 4% greater than normal. Precipitation in April was 3.45 inches, about a half inch above normal. May averaged 56.4°F, 1.2° cooler than normal. Although there were five days with above 80° readings, a low of 33°F on 28 May produced scattered frost. Sunshine averaged 58%, 3% above normal. Rain in May totaled 3.27 inches, barely below normal. There were at least traces of rain on 22 days.

The lasting snow cover and cold weather certainly had their effect on early migrants. A Virginia Rail was seen briefly in Chatham on 23 Mar as it flew out of a rapidly flowing stream bed and landed in the snow. Red-winged Blackbird and Common Grackle were not reported in the Albany area until 10 Mar, more than a week later than usual. Large numbers of gulls, Herring and Great Black-backed in the thousands in about 1:4 ratio, remained on the Mohawk River well into April. The ice didn't go out of northern Lake George until 23 Apr, preventing an earlier northward migration.

Later migrants seemed to arrive on a normal timetable. There were three major fallout days. On 1 May Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin reported finding 13 warbler species. The early part of 14 May offered great spring birding for Big-Day teams. Walter and Nancy reported 16 species of warblers both in Guilderland and at Thatcher Park. Unfortunately by 10:00 AM it had become very windy so birding late in the day was accomplished only with difficulty. A low pressure system which occurred from 15-19 May produced a major passerine grounding, 17 and 18 May being particularly productive. The morning of 17 May was foggy, and in the Skidmore woods bird song could be heard everywhere. Normally high canopy species could easily be seen low in the trees. Fourteen warbler species were reported from Nott Road Park.

Rarities sighted during the period included Glossy Ibis, Barrow's Goldeneye, and Lesser Black-backed Gull.

Contributors: Ken Able; Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports (ADBC); Birdline of Eastern New York (BEN); William Brown; Robert Budliger; Paul Connor; Bill Cook; Walter Ellison; Laurie Freeman; Bill Graham; Jane Graves; Bill Lee; Alan A. Mapes (AAM); Andy Mason

(AM); Nancy Martin; Laura Meade; Frank Murphy; Barb Putnam; Jim Sotis; Robert Yunick.

Abbreviations: BCWMA - Black Creek Marsh State Wildlife Management Area, ALBA; BCRes - Basic Creek Res, ALBA; FREEC - Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; FtE - Fort Edward, WASH; L7/NL - Lock 7 and Niskayuna Landfill, SCHE; NRP - Nott Road Park, Guilderland, ALBA; PISP - Peebles Island State Park, Cohoes, ALBA; SaraL - Saratoga Lake, SARA; SBNHP - Saratoga Battlefield National Historic Park, SARA; SI - Simmons Island, Cohoes, ALBA; TomRes - Tomhannock Reservoir, RENS; VFNP - Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve, SARA.

Spring reports: **Red-throated Loon:** two Collins L SCHE 18 Apr (C. George to BEN); one Stockport 21 Apr (ADBC); two BCRes 1 May (P. Johnson); one TomRes 19 May (WE), late. **Com. Loon:** arr Green I ALBA 20 Mar (BEN); 90 SaraL 19 Apr (WE, NM), large number; one Thirteenth L WARR 30 Apr (KA), first day after ice out; last four BCRes 14 May (WE, NM). **Pied-billed Grebe:** arr River Road WASH 26 Mar (JG); seven reports. **Horned Grebe:** arr Fort Miller 20 Mar (JS); one Round L SARA 26 May (BP), late. **Red-necked Grebe:** six reports, max seven SaraL 17 Apr (WE, NM). **Double-crested Cormorant:** arr Greenport 2 Apr (BC); max 45 Round L SARA 17 Apr (WE, NM). **Am. Bittern:** max three BCWMA 14 May (WE, NM). **Least Bittern:** one Carter L WASH 31 May (JS), only report. **Great Egret:** one Hillsdale 14 May (ADBC), only report, unusual in spring. **Snowy Egret:** one Harrington Pd RENS 26 Apr (S. Kelly). **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** one calling overhead at dusk PISP 30 Apr (WE, NM), only report. **Glossy Ibis:** ad eating worms from rain pool Staats I Schodack RENS 16 Apr (WE). **Mute Swan:** one Hudson R Moreau SARA 11 Mar (BP), only report. **Snow Goose:** arr 24 Fort Miller 26 Mar (BP); max 1000 FtE 31 Mar (WB, JG). **Brant:** 1200-1500 near Exit 12 Northway SARA 16 May (WE, NM) forced low by rain/clouds. **Wood Duck:** max 37 Rennselaer/Schodack 27 Mar (WE, NM). **N. Pintail:** max 25 Rennselaer/Schodack 27 Mar (WE, NM). **Am. Wigeon:** arr Cossackie 13 Mar (BC). **Canvasback:** female Cossackie 13 Mar (BC); 25 Stuyvesant 27 Mar (WE, NM). **Redhead:** none. **Ring-necked Duck:** 120 Schodack Creek Poolsburg COLU 4 Apr (PC), large number. **Greater Scaup:** six Stuyvesant 27 Mar (WE, NM), only report. **Lesser Scaup:** five reports. **Oldsquaw:** one L George WARR 8 Apr (BP); three SaraL 15 Apr (JG); one SaraL 14 May (WE, NM). **Black Scoter:** female Cohoes 19-22 Mar (RB, WE, NM), same bird that overwintered.

White-winged Scoter: one Hudson R Moreau SARA 26 Mar (BP); two TomRes 19 May (WE). **Com. Goldeneye:** last 33 SaraL 17 Apr (WE, NM). **Barrow's Goldeneye:** imm male Cohoes 22-23 Mar (RB, WE, NM); male Stockport Station COLU 30 Mar (ADBC). **Bufflehead:** four Cohoes 2-22 Mar (RB); last 11 SaraL 24 Apr (BP). **Hooded Merganser:** arr two Castleton on Hudson 12 Mar (WE, NM); two nesting in wood duck boxes Carter L WASH 28 May (Jeff Duxbury *fide* JS). **Com. Merganser:** max 140 Round L SARA 17 Apr (WE, NM). **Red-breasted Merganser:** arr Hudson R Moreau SARA 26 Mar (BP); last two SaraL 14 May (WE, NM).

Turkey Vulture: arr Coxsackie 12 Mar (BC). **Osprey:** pair Carter L WASH 14 May (Jeff Dusbury *fide* JS). **Bald Eagle:** nineteen reports. **N. Goshawk:** eight reports include pair at nest Battenville 24 May (Ron Renoni *fide* JS) female observed on nest 31 May (JS). **Red-shouldered Hawk:** arr Jenny L SARA 1 Apr (RY), probably breeding. **Broad-winged Hawk:** arr Schodack Center 15 Apr (PC). **Rough-legged Hawk:** last FtE 2 Apr (BP). **Merlin:** three reports. **Peregrine Falcon:** singles State Plaza Albany 11 Apr (BEN); one VFNP 25 Apr (BEN); one Fort Miller 1 May (BP); one L George WARR 21 May (WB). **Virginia Rail:** max seven BCWMA 14 May (WE, NM); six Carter L WASH 28 May (JS); *intro*. **Com. Moorhen:** two BCWMA 14 May (WE, NM); four Carter L WASH 16 May (JS), up to ten by 29 May. **Am. Coot:** none. **Greater Yellowlegs:** three Saratoga Sod Farm SARA 24 Apr, max 16 on 5 May (BP). **Lesser Yellowlegs:** seven Saratoga Sod Farm SARA 1 May (BP); one Berne 14 May (WE, NM). **Upland Sandpiper:** one FtE 15 May (BP), only report, late? **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** four Saratoga Sod Farm SARA 20 May (BP), only report. **Least Sandpiper:** four reports. **Dunlin:** two Saratoga Sod Farm SARA 14 May (BP), only report. **Bonaparte's Gull:** ad, seven imm Colonie 24 Apr (WE), only report. **Iceland Gull:** three reports. **Lesser Black-backed Gull:** ad SI 12 Mar (WE, NM); ad Colonie 19 Mar (WE, NM). **Glaucous Gull:** five reports. **Black Tern:** two Riverview Road Crescent ALBA 14 May (WE, NM).

Black-billed Cuckoo: singles Guilderland 14 May (WE, NM), FREEC 21 May (BEN), Schodack Center 25 May (PC), Tower Road SARA 29 May (JG). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** none. **Short-eared Owl:** last FtE 28 Mar (BP). **Com. Nighthawk:** one Rexford 28 May (B. Grossman to BEN), only report. **Whip-poor-will:** one heard in trees behind 100 Pine Ave. Albany 23 Apr (Dan Conner *fide* PC), only report. **Red-headed Woodpecker:** one Florida 27 May (T. Palmer to BEN), only report. **Red-bellied Woodpecker:** four reports; numbers down.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Castleton I Schodack RENS 13 May (WE, NM); one Cambridge 21 May (JS). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** one Schodack Center 24 May (PC). **Great Crested Flycatcher:** one Chatham 24 Apr (ADBC), early. **E. Kingbird:** one Ghent 26 Apr (ADBC), early. **Purple Martin:** two Broadalbin 11 May (LF); twelve SaraL 14 May (JG). **Fish Crow:** seven reports, believed nesting Schenectady (RY). **Com. Raven:** reported throughout Region; five nestlings White Creek WASH 15 Apr (Doug Reed *fide* JS). **Carolina Wren:** one Schodack Center 2 Mar, 22 Apr (PC), generally scarce after harsh winter. **Winter Wren:** two Watervliet Res ALBA 9 Apr (WE, NM); one Saratoga Spa SP after 24 Apr (JG, G. Hanson to BEN), nesting? **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** max twelve NRP 19 Apr (WE, NM). **E. Bluebird:** overwintered in Region. **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** one Greenport 14 May (ADBC), only report. **Swainson's Thrush:** three reports; numerous nocturnal migrants heard Schodack RENS night of 25 May (PC). **Am. Pipit:** 20 Saratoga Sod Farm SARA 17 Apr (JG). **Cedar Waxwing:** max 60 Rennselaer/Schodack RENS 27 Mar (WE, NM).

Philadelphia Vireo: one Greenport 14 May (ADBC), only report. **Blue-winged Warbler:** arr Austerlitz 30 Apr (ADBC). **Golden-winged Warbler:** arr Berne 5 May (KA); one SNHP 14 May (BP). **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler:** "Brewster's" type PISP 1 May (WE, NM), Guilderland 14 May (WE, NM). **Nashville Warbler:** max ten ALBA 14 May (WE, NM). **N. Parula Warbler:** "seemed to be lots this spring" (KA). **Yellow Warbler:** max 21 VFNP 14 May (JG). **Magnolia Warbler:** max ten ALBA 14 May (WE, NM). **Cape May Warbler:** only two reports. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 30 NRP 17 May (WE, NM). **Black-throated Green Warbler:** max five Skidmore SARA 1 May (JG). **Prothonotary Warbler:** one Hague 5 May (LM), no details. **Prairie Warbler:** arr Hillsdale 4 Apr (ADBC) early; one Chestertown 28 Apr (Merry Baker *fide* M Peterson). **Cerulean Warbler:** arr Greenport 14 May (ADBC); one Thacher P ALBA 14 May (WE, NM); one Moreau SARA 31 May (BP). **Worm-eating Warbler:** one Copake 14 May (ADBC) only report. **Ovenbird:** max eight Skidmore SARA 4 May (JG). **N. Waterthrush:** one Guilderland 29 May (WE, NM) late. **Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr NRP 12 Apr (WE, NM); max five NRP 17 May (WE, NM). **Mourning Warbler:** one Meco 19 May (LF); one Hadley SARA 21 May (BP). **Wilson's Warbler:** three reports. **Canada Warbler:** max six Thacher P ALBA 14 May (WE, NM)

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: six reports; max six+ Livingston COLU 1 May (BC). **Am. Tree Sparrow:** one on a Century Run on May 14 (no details), very late. **Chipping Sparrow:** max 20 Easton 12 Mar (BP). **Field**

Sparrow: arr Livingston COLU 25 Mar (BC). **Vesper Sparrow:** one Guilderland 9 Apr (WE, NM); one Chatham 21, 26 Apr (ADBC), only reports. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** one Northumberland 16 May (G. Recer to BEN); one Saratoga Sod Farm SARA 23 May (B. Lee to BEN). **Henslow's Sparrow:** two SBNHP 14 May (JG, BP). **Fox Sparrow:** six reports of singles. **Swamp Sparrow:** arr Guilderland 9 Apr (WE, NM); max 18 BCWMA 23 Apr (WE, NM). **White-throated Sparrow:** last transients at feeder Guilderland 18 May (WE, NM). **White-crowned Sparrow:** last one Mayfield 18 May (LF). **Lapland Longspur:** last two FtE 11 Mar (BP). **Snow Bunting:** last one FtE 28 Mar. **Red-winged Blackbird:** arr Loudonville 10 Mar (FM) late. **Rusty Blackbird:** arr three VFNP 27 Apr (JG), max 60 SaraL 17 Apr (WE, NM). **Orchard Oriole:** one Stuyvesant 10 May (ADBC); one Ann Lee Pd ALBA 11 May (FM, mob). **Pine Grosbeak:** two FREEC 3 Mar (RB). **Purple Finch:** seven reports; low numbers Jenny L SARA (RY). **Red Crossbill:** 43 Stillwater 10 Apr (BP); 15 Pine Bush, Albany 8 May (WE, NM); two Pine Bush 14 May (WE, NM). **White-winged Crossbill:** no reports. **Com. Redpoll:** widely reported; max 300+ Saratoga Springs 7 Apr, last on 28 Apr (JG). **Pine Siskin:** six reports after mid Apr. **Evening Grosbeak:** widely reported; max 100+ Locust Grove Road SARA 7 Apr (JG).

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REGION 9 — HUDSON-DELAWARE

JOHN P. ASKILDSEN

March 1994 came in like a pride of hungry lions that had designs on devouring our month's end lamb! During the first week of the month, a two day storm deposited from 5 to 12 inches of snow over the Region. Winter was not done with us yet! Another winter storm hit on 10 Mar. In WEST, there was a major flooding problem because storm drains were still jammed with ice. The monthly low temperature was 4°F on 1 Mar and the monthly high was 67°F on 24 Mar. Winter's grip had begun to slip. While the opening of ponds and lakes in the southern end of the Region began in earnest in early March, water bodies in SULL and ULST

did not really show signs of thaw until late March. Early April brought a few bad storms through the Region, with high winds and rain, but at this point it wasn't anything we couldn't handle. Then at the end of April, 89 glorious degrees on 27 Apr! Yahoo! The Region experienced about a week of incredible sunshine and heat! May brought some below normal temperatures, but nothing severe. Precipitation levels were about normal.

A total of 246 species was reported this season. Well represented were herons with nine species, waterfowl 30 species, hawks 16 species, rails with four species, and warblers at 34 species. American Oystercatcher arrived at Rye on 3 Apr, and could be seen almost daily roosting and feeding on offshore islands. Solitary Sandpiper was noted in higher than usual numbers this spring, perhaps because of the excess water from an ample spring runoff. A total of 34 were counted in DUTC on a 14 May spring census. Of continued interest this spring as last were the reports of calling Northern Saw-whet Owl in SULL. It is even rumored that a nest was found at the Bashakill, but so far this has not been documented. Has Northern Saw-whet Owl always been this numerous and vocal but perhaps previously overlooked in the Region? Of added interest is that an apparently recently fledged, downy bird was found at Vassar College in n DUTC in late May. The youngster was found in a weakened condition on a rooftop and was brought to the Hudson Valley Raptor Center for treatment, where it is doing just fine. How far could this bird have flown?

Doodletown Road in Bear Mountain SP, ROCK, produced some excellent spring flights. Great numbers of hummingbirds, flycatchers, thrushes, vireos, warblers, and tanagers were enjoyed by many birders. The local breeding species such as Hooded, Cerulean and Kentucky Warbler were present in the highest numbers ever recorded, as evidenced by an impressive one day count of 31, 26 and 4, respectively. Golden-winged Warbler made a better showing than last year with one to three found at many of the traditional locales. Several Blue-winged x Golden-winged Warbler hybrids were found as well.

As of 31 Mar, flocks of Common Redpoll numbering 200 or more individuals were reported in the northern tier of the Region. Common Redpoll in greatly reduced numbers were observed visiting bird feeders in the company of Chipping Sparrow as late as mid April. Considering

their scarcity this winter, relatively large flocks of Pine Siskin, numbering 40 individuals or more, were reported as late as 26 May in SULL. Evening Grosbeak was being reported in small scattered flocks across the Region through late March and even as late as 21 May in SULL and ULST. It will not be surprising to see reports of these winter finches during the summer period at this rate.

The list of highlight species includes some of the more expected spring overshoots and, not surprisingly, some winter holdovers. A Barrow's Goldeneye was reported and the on again, off again drake Eurasian Wigeon was seen this time by Frank Bonanno and Vince Plogar on 23 & 24 Mar at Rockland L SP. Nine reports totaling 14 Black Vulture were received; a breakdown may reveal a slight possibility of multiple reports of the same birds. The previously reported Lesser Black-backed Gull from Haverstraw Bay, ROCK, was last reported on 8 Apr by Ed Treacy. The two at Rye were last reported by Tom Burke on 10 Mar and 16 Apr. Two Yellow-throated Warbler were reported. The previously reported male Dickcissel which frequented Tom Burke's Rye feeder off and on this winter popped up yet again on 27 Mar. A pair of Dickcissel was reported from a Hurleyville, SULL, farm with correct habitat for two days in late May (*fide* Valerie Freer). Unfortunately despite searching, the birds were not relocated by experienced birders to confirm the identification of this rare potential breeder.

The list of unexpected rarities is impressive, but not overwhelming. The best include *American White Pelican*, *Tricolored Heron*, *King Rail*, *Stilt Sandpiper*, *Connecticut Warbler*, and the "Ipswich" race of Savannah Sparrow. According to Hunter Pollack, the over wintering *Boreal Chickadee* at his Patterson, PUTN, feeder remained through 27 Apr. A single *Bohemian Waxwing* was identified in a flock of Cedar Waxing in DUTC on 1 Apr (*fide* Jim Key). Finally, the Region's first *Boat-tailed Grackle* was observed at the Marshlands Conservancy in Rye on 9 Apr by Tom Burke. The bird, a male, was observed feeding on the brackish mud flats, flying and calling for 20 minutes. Other species deserving of honorable mention include Little Blue Heron, Golden Eagle, Long-eared Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker, and Common Raven.

Contributors: John P. Askildsen, Frank Bonnano, Al Brayton, Thomas W. Burke, Mark DeDea, Dot Fleury, Valerie Freer, Andrew Guthrie, Geoff

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Abbreviations: Bash - Bashakill Marsh; DTR - Doodletown Road, ROCK; EGR - Edith G. Read Sanctuary, Rye, WEST; MC - Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; RTWBCSC - Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club Spring Census, DUTC, May 14.

Spring reports: **Com. Loon:** six EGR 28 Apr. **Red-throated Loon:** 16 EGR 7 Apr. **Horned Grebe:** 14 EGR 28 Apr. **Red-necked Grebe:** two Piermont Pier ROCK 5-14 Mar; four Hillview Res Yonkers late Mar, one Bash through 12 Apr, 25 EGR 15 Apr, 19 EGR 28 Apr, one DUTC 15-18 Apr. **Am. White Pelican:** one Hudson R at Roundout Creek ULST 11 Apr (NYSDEC biologist Richard Popp), DUTC side of Hudson R 11-12 May (RTWBC, mob). **Great Cormorant:** 18 EGR 12 Mar, last there 14 May. **Double-crested Cormorant:** 110 EGR 28 Apr. **Am. Bittern:** one ULST 3 Apr, one ROCK and two DUTC 14 Apr, one Rye 17 Apr, two Bash mid May; good showing. **Least Bittern:** several Bash in May. **Great Blue Heron:** 37 active nests in two colonies DUTC. **Little Blue Heron:** one n DUTC 28 Apr; imm MC 25 May. **Tricolored Heron:** ad Tivoli Bay n DUTC 14 Apr (Mark DeDea), first record for DUTC. **Cattle Egret:** one s WEST 14 Apr. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** one MC 14 May. **Glossy Ibis:** arr Rye 9 Apr, max 13 Rye 11 May. **Brant:** thousands migrated up Hudson R. evening of 20 May **Blue-winged Teal:** arr WEST 26 Mar. **N. Shoveler:** one DUTC 17 Mar, uncommon. **Eurasian Wigeon:** intro. **Redhead:** one Rye 2 Mar. **Greater Scaup:** 2000+ Rye 5 Mar. **Lesser Scaup:** 170 Rye 5 Mar. **Oldsquaw:** max 247 EGR 15 Apr. **White-winged Scoter:** max 142 EGR 15 Apr, 57 on 30 Apr. **Com. Goldeneye:** 35 Rye 13 Mar. **Barrow's Goldeneye:** drake Hudson R ULST 26 Mar (Jim & Mary Key).

Black Vulture: three n DUTC late Feb (DF), two n WEST 5 Mar (JPA), one n DUTC 13 Mar (MJK), two DUTC 14 Apr (DF,MY), two DUTC 20 Apr (RTWBC trip), one Bear Mountain 21 Apr (EDT), one Doodletown all of May (mob), one 6 1/2 station Sanctuary ORAN 13 May. **Rough-legged Hawk:** one Rye 19 Mar. **Golden Eagle:** two Stissing Mt n DUTC 9 Mar, last date; one Bear Mountain ROCK 21 Apr. **Merlin:** ten plus reports of migrants. **Peregrine Falcon:** migrant s WEST 15 Apr. **N. Bobwhite:** one n SULL 21 Apr; one RTWBCSC, uncommon. **Clapper Rail:** one MC 21

Apr. *King Rail* one Bash 5 May (Geoff LeBaron), heard calling at least two weeks later. *Virginia Rail*: well reported Bash. *Sora*: two RTWBCSC; one Bash 14 May. *Am. Oystercatcher*: intro. *Ruddy Turnstone*: 20 EGR 12 Mar. *Solitary Sandpiper*: intro. *Upland Sandpiper*: arr Blue Chip Farms ULST late Apr. *Purple Sandpiper*: 30+ EGR 26 Mar. *Semipalmated Sandpiper*: 300+ MC 13 May. *White-rumped Sandpiper*: arr two MC 9 May, max six MC 25 May (TWB). *Pectoral Sandpiper*: two MC 9 May; two DUTC 14 May. *Stilt Sandpiper*: one MC 19 May (TWB, Bob Schreiber), exceptional in spring. *Am. Woodcock*: nine MC 20 Mar. *Laughing Gull*: arr EGR 16 Apr, five there 30 Apr. *Bonaparte's Gull*: two EGR 26 Mar. *Lesser Black-backed Gull*: intro.

Long-eared Owl: one SULL 30 Apr. *N. Saw-whet Owl*: intro. *Whip-poor-will*: two n DUTC 24 Apr. *Red-headed Woodpecker*: one at SULL feeder through early spring; one at ROCK feeder 28 Apr only.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: max five DTR 15 May. *Yellow-bellied Flycatcher*: one DTR 15 May. *Acadian Flycatcher*: one RTWBCSC. *Alder Flycatcher*: three RTWBCSC; one n SULL 13 May. *Willow Flycatcher*: three MC 25 May. *Least Flycatcher*: 45 RTWBCSC. *Purple Martin*: two EGR 17 Apr; Colony of up to eight DUTC. *Bank Swallow*: 283 RTWBCSC. *Com. Raven*: one ROCK 30 Mar; xix RTWBCSC; one DTR ROCK 4 May. *Boreal Chickadee*: intro. *Carolina Wren*: numbers very reduced from severe winter. *Marsh Wren*: one heard Bash 8-14 May, rare there. *Ruby-crowned Kinglet*: one RTWBCSC. *Gray-cheeked Thrush*: Bicknell's Rye Nature Center 18 May. *Bohemian Waxwing*: intro.

Philadelphia Vireo: one n ROCK 27 Apr, early; two Bash 14 May, one DUTC 14 May. *Golden-winged Warbler*: intro. *Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler*: "Brewster's" type DRR during May; several "Lawrence's" type from expected hot spots such as the Bash and one DTR. *Yellow-throated Warbler*: Rye Nature Center 15 Apr (Tom Burke); one near the Ashokan Res T Olive ULST 22 May (Maeve Mauer, Al Brayton). *Cerulean Warbler*: intro. *Kentucky Warbler*: intro. *Connecticut Warbler*: one singing Great Swamp in Pawling DUTC 19 May (Sibyll Gilbert, mob). *Mourning Warbler*: two Rye Nature Center 18 & 24 May; one n SULL 17 May. *Hooded Warbler*: seven RTWBCSC. *Yellow-breasted Chat*: arr MC 7 May.

Dickcissel: intro. *Am. Tree Sparrow*: last DUTC 15 Apr. *Vesper Sparrow*: one RTWBCSC. *Savannah Sparrow*: one *Ipswich* race EGR 26 Mar (TWB). *Sharp-tailed Sparrow*: singles MC beginning late Apr. *Seaside Sparrow*: singles MC also beginning late Apr. *Fox Sparrow*: last DUTC 14 May. *Snow Bunting*: 200+ s DUTC 19 Mar. *Boat-tailed Grackle*:

intro. **Rusty Blackbird:** low numbers reported. **Orchard Oriole:** well reported throughout Region. **Com. Redpoll:** *intro.* **Pine Siskin:** *intro.* **Evening Grosbeak:** *intro.*

Post Office Box 32, Chappaqua, New York 10514-0032

REGION 10 — MARINE

SEYMOUR SCHIFF AND ALVIN WOLLIN

March was colder and wetter than normal; April was dryer and warmer than normal; and May was slightly dryer and warmer than normal. The "warmer" April did little to move the season along. The temperature reached 70°F only once in March and 90°F only once in May. After the past winter's snow falls and a cold March, the start of this spring was noticeably late during the early portion. Early blooming shrubs and plants were a week to ten days late in the Region. However, the season caught up quickly. The trees were fully leafed out by the beginning of May when significant numbers of warblers had arrived.

The most significant ornithological event came in the early part of the season. The decision to replenish the sand on the Point Lookout bathing beaches prior to the summer beach season resulted in an unusual birding opportunity. This area is across the inlet directly opposite the Jones Beach West End jetty. Starting in early March, dredges in Jones Inlet pumped water laden sand plus clams, crabs, shellfish and other gull edibles onto the area to the west of the jetties at that location. As the outfall pipe moved westward along the beach, it became a bonanza for gulls and gull watchers. Jones Inlet is the best location closest to New York City to find rare sea birds, but this year it was incredible for a short period of time on the Point Lookout side. The outstanding bird of the season was a **Ross' Gull** which was found 17 Mar in a flock of Bonaparte's Gull in the inlet by Manny Levine, Lester Feldman and Al Wollin. This obliging visitor from the Arctic was seen by hundreds during its appearances 17-18, 20-22 and 30 Mar. The elusive gull only appeared on certain tides, only on certain days, and did not stay with the visible Bonaparte's Gull flock at all times. The ever increasing crowds of anxious birders ranged up the beach and discovered the dredging outfall pipe and the accompanying gulls there. In addition to the hoards of Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull and Great Black-backed Gull, there were at least ten to twelve Iceland Gull in all

plumages, immature and adult Glaucous Gull and a Lesser Black-backed Gull on the beach in front of the pipe. Up to six Little Gull (max on 31 Mar) and two Common Black-headed Gull were in with the Bonaparte's Gull flock, either in the ocean or in the inlet.

During March and into April huge numbers of both Horned Grebe (over 150) and Red-necked Grebe (20) were on the Point Lookout side in Jones Inlet and the surrounding ocean waters. This influx, which normally would have received greater scrutiny with details, was completely overshadowed by the incursion of the gulls. Both species displayed many breeding plumage individuals before the bulk of the grebes departed in April. Some of each were still present in May. The grebe incursion was unrelated to the dredging and was probably due to the extensive freeze to the north during the preceding Winter. There were also significant numbers of both species farther to the east during the same time.

Steve Walter has been studying the spring movements of raptors on Staten Island. From 12 Mar to 20 Apr, he recorded 112 sightings of Turkey Vulture with a max of 38 on 26 Mar. The overall raptor total was 361 during the ten days of data gathering during the six week period. The notes received are intriguing. We leave a more comprehensive report to Mr. Walter. In a different vein, there are now reports of Osprey nesting failures. Prior to this time reports was of nest success and the spread to new nest sites. This suggests that our contributors perceive the species as stable rather than rebuilding lost numbers.

Tom Burke reported a "possible first year **Thayer's Gull**" on 13 Mar from a Massapequa pond, which was not subsequently relocated. The report was accompanied with drawings, notes, verbal discussion and results of much research. We leave final interpretation to those who are more expert than we are. The caution expressed here is Tom's and we concur. Identification of gulls and terns is, at best, very difficult. Other highlights are three sightings of **American Swallow-tailed Kite** and two of **Mississippi Kite**.

While we are on the subject of caution, we are beginning to see an increasing number of "Anhinga" reports. All are of soaring birds. With the increasing numbers of Double-crested Cormorant in our area, these soaring birds are more likely to be this latter more common species than a displaced Anhinga. Then again, we might just be seeing the start of a range expansion. But, unless one can clearly see the bird, watch it, and has knowledge of what to look for beyond what the field guides say, the identification is suspect. An immature soaring cormorant with a white throat and chest, has a silhouette and pattern much like an Anhinga to anyone who isn't fully acquainted with this bird.

With the imminent separation of Gray-cheeked Thrush and Bicknell's

Thrush into two species, we have received the first migration reports of the latter. Telling them apart in the field is still uncertain, but we will report this anticipated addition to the NY list if we can be assured of the correctness of the identification. Burke, on discussions he had with Paul Buckley, believes that most of birds they saw in western Long Island on 15 May were Bicknell's based on plumage.

Contributors: Bob Adamo, Howard Boltson, Andy Baldelli, Paul A. Buckley, Thomas W. Burke, Ralph Cioffi, Barbara Conolly, Lester Feldman, Tom Fiore, Henry F. Flamm, John J. Fritz, Paul H. Gillen, Bob Kurtz, Anthony J. Lauro, Millard Lindauer, Emanuel Levine, Peter Martin, Joan L. Quinlan, Eric Salzman, Seymour Schiff, Lore J. Schore, Jim Sotis, Steve Walter, Alvin Wollin.

Abbreviations: APP - Alley Pond Park; BNL - Brookhaven National Laboratory; CB - Cedar Beach; CP - Central Park; CRSP - Connetquot River State Park; HLSP - Hempstead Lake State Park; JBWR - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JB - Jones Beach; JBWE - Jones Beach West End; LI - Long Island; MPt - Montauk Point; NYRBA - New York Rare Bird Alert; PtL - Point Lookout; PP - Prospect Park; RMSP - Robert Moses State Park; ShIn - Shinnecock Inlet; SI - Staten Island; SMSP - Sunken Meadow State Park.

Spring reports: *Horned Grebe: intro.* *Red-necked Grebe: intro*, one Alt plumage Twin Lakes Pd Wantagh 27 Mar (PM). *Sooty Shearwater:* three ShIn 24 May (NYRBA). *Wilson's Storm-Petrel:* six Democrat Pt 26 May (JF, JQ). *N. Gannet:* one SMSP 21 Mar, first record for the park (HB). *Am. White Pelican:* one JBWR 15 May AM (TB, mob), Huntington Bay 15 May PM (Walter Chaskel); JBWE 18 May (Tom Vezo, Pat Jones). *Least Bittern:* one APP 2 May (Charles Badowski). *Greater White-fronted Goose:* imm with Canada Goose flock on the grass at Zachs Bay mid Mar, very wary and easily spooked in contrast to the other geese there (AW). *Green-winged Teal:* European race Brookwood Hall L Islip 6 Mar (NYRBA). *Eurasian Wigeon:* one PP Lake 6 Mar (NYRBA). *Redhead:* approx. 150+ on small ponds around Babylon 5 Mar (NYRBA). *Com. Eider:* 100 MPt 13 Mar, 40 MPt 27 Mar (NYRBA). *Harlequin Duck:* two ShIn 6 Mar (PG); wintered at PtL, max 13 on 30 Mar (NYRBA), three ShIn 3 May (NYRBA). *scoter*, multi sp.: 40,000 MPt 13 Mar (AL).

Turkey Vulture: intro; two Verrazano Bridge 17 Mar (George Dadone), one Laurel (north fork) 20 Mar (PG), one Glen Cove (RC), one Gilgo 18 Apr (JF, JQ), one APP 20 Apr (Larry Plotnick, LS); continues to increase LI. *Osprey: intro.* *Am. Swallow-tailed Kite:* one JBWE 11 Mar (Millard Lindauer), one over Brooklyn Public Library (TF), one south of Riverhead 24 Apr (Julius Hastings). *Mississippi Kite:* one JBWR 14 May (BK, mob). *Bald Eagle:* one SI 14 Apr (SW). *Broad-winged Hawk:* more reports than usual; one PtL 24 Mar, rare at the beach (Larry Plotnick, LS). *Wild Turkey:* one reported from Inwood Hill P 21 Apr (NYRBA); there have other reports of birds of unknown provenance from the

Bronx and vicinity in prior years. **Black Rail**: one Oak Beach after 15 May (BK, AB). **Black-necked Stilt**: one Gold Star Beach Huntington 15 May (Walter Chaskel *fide* NYRBA). **Upland Sandpiper**: one JBWE 15 May (mob). **Whimbrel**: one JBWR 1 May, two ShIn 30 May (NYRBA). **Purple Sandpiper**: 20 JBWE 24 May (PM). **Stilt Sandpiper**: one Sand's Pt 3-4 May (NYRBA), rare in spring. **Ruff**: female Oak Beach 1-2 Apr (AL). **Wilson's Phalarope**: female JBWR 28 Apr-1 May (NYRBA). **Parasitic Jaeger**: one Mecox 15 May (NYRBA). **Little Gull**: *intro*, immature to 22 May and adult to 19 May. **Com. Black-headed Gull**: *intro*; one Inwood P Manhattan 10 Mar (NYRBA). **Bonaparte's Gull**: *intro*. **Thayer's Gull**: *intro*. **Iceland Gull**: *intro*; one MPt 13 Mar, one Massapequa Pd 13 Mar (TB), one PtL 1 May (NYRBA). **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: *intro*; one Massapequa Pd 13 Mar (TB). **Glaucous Gull**: *intro*, one Breezy Pt 5 Mar, one MPt 6 Mar (NYRBA), one Massapequa Pd 13 Mar (TB). **Great Black-backed Gull**: *intro*. **Ross' Gull**: *intro*. **Gull-billed Tern**: one JBWE 7 May (EL), then two till 21 May (mob), four 22 May, none afterwards; one Oceanside 28-29 May (NYRBA), two CB 21 May (NYRBA). **Caspian Tern**: one HLSP 1 May (SS, mob). **Royal Tern**: one JB 15 May (NYRBA). **Black Tern**: one Jones Inlet 7-8 May (NYRBA), two Fox Pt 13 May (BC). **Black Skimmer**: virtually absent JB, no breeding colonies there this year; seen to the west at JBWR and to the east at CB. **Razorbill**: one ShIn 6 Mar (PG), one ShIn 23 Mar (NYRBA), one MPt 6 and 13 Mar, six MPt 27 Mar (NYRBA).

Chuck-will's-widow: one Riverhead 6 May, one Oak Beach 15 May (NYRBA). **Whip-poor-will**: calling CRSP 23 Apr (PM). **Red-headed Woodpecker**: half dozen singles widely scattered early May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr 17 May. **Acadian Flycatcher**: arr 18 May. **Bank Swallow**: colony at SMSF (HB). **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: *intro*. **Am. Pipit**: two RMSF 28 Mar (JF). **Loggerhead Shrike**: one PP 11 May (TF).

Philadelphia Vireo: one Wildwood SP 25 Apr (BA). **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler**: "Brewster's" type Welwyn Preserve 18 May (Tim O'Connor, Ann Lotowycz) and 20 May (BC); "Lawrence's" type BNL 7 May (BA). **Orange-crowned Warbler**: one CP 27 Apr (NYRBA). **Yellow-throated Warbler**: one HLSP 6-10 Apr, one PP 17-24 Apr, one Quogue 24 Apr, one CP 13 May, one Fort Tyron P 15 May (NYRBA); one Clover L P 20 Apr (Ray Matarazzo *fide* HF). **Cerulean Warbler**: one APP 27 Apr (JF, JQ), others in most city parks from 25 Apr (NYRBA). **Prothonotary Warbler**: a half-dozen reports from SI to central SUFF. **Kentucky Warbler**: one New Hyde P back yard 24 May (Jim Sotis), other after 27 Apr (NYRBA). **Connecticut Warbler**: one reported CP 31 May (TF), no details. **Hooded Warbler**: more reports than usual.

Summer Tanager: one CP 20-25 Apr, three FP 30 Apr, two FP 3-6, 22 May, one Tobay 15 May, one Fort Tyron P 15 May (all NYRBA); one RMSP 5 May (JF). **Blue Grosbeak:** one Long Beach 14 Apr, one PP 16 Apr, one FP 15 May (NYRBA). **Dickcissel:** one PP 3-10 Apr (NYRBA). **Clay-colored Sparrow:** one JBWE 11 May (Dave Klauber *fide* NYRBA), no details. **Vesper Sparrow:** one Zachs Bay 14 Apr (NYRBA). **Lark Sparrow:** one JB 14 Apr (ML). **White-crowned Sparrow:** *Gambel's race* 15 May (PB, ph Tom Vezo). **Bobolink:** several reports central SUFF. **Rusty Blackbird:** ten Shu Swamp 15 Mar (JF, JQ). **Boat-tailed Grackle:** female ShIn 31 May (PG), expanding range. **Purple Finch:** two at feeder Wading River 16 Apr (BA). **Com. Redpoll:** last south shore LI late March. **Pine Siskin:** two FP 15 May, five feeder Centerport 15 May, six CP 20 May. **Evening Grosbeak:** at feeder Wading River 30 Apr (BA), nine at feeder Fort Salonga 25-29 April (HB), one APP 9 May (JF), CP 21 Apr (Mildred Penzer).

Exotics: Monk Parakeet: six APP 27 Apr (JF).

Corrigenda: The Northern Wheatear found at Jones Beach 18 Sep 1993 as reported in Vol. 44 No. 1 p. 80 should have properly been credited to Matt Bayer.

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